

# ***The Apostles' Creed***



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- *Intro to the Creed Itself*
- *God the Father*
- *God the Son*
  - *Christ's Birth*
  - *Christ's Crucifixion and Death*
  - *Christ's Death and Resurrection*
  - *Christ in Heaven*
  - *Christ as Judge*
- *God the Holy Spirit*
- *The Church*
- *The Forgiveness of Sins*



# *The Forgiveness of Sins*

- “We believe in the forgiveness of sins...”
  - This line is fairly straightforward, right?  
(I mean, that’s why this is all that the Apostles’ Creed says about the doctrine)

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.”

EPHESIANS 1:7



# The Forgiveness of Sins



## Funky little teaching moment...

- I've chatted with a couple of people this week who expressed that they have issues with this concept
  - Ironically, most of those issues aren't theological—they're emotional and relational
    - We can struggle to genuinely repent, and if we can't fully repent, then how can God forgive us?
    - Or for that matter, we can repent of X sin, but still be doing Y sin or Z sin—which means that though we may ask to be forgiven for X, we're still “sinners” in the eyes of God, so how can we be forgiven at all?
    - Or beyond that, we can just feel so undeserving, like we haven't merited forgiveness from God or others (which then can play itself out in us struggling to forgive those around us, since *they* arguably haven't merited forgiveness from *us*, since doesn't forgiveness require apologies and repentance—i.e.; don't we have to “earn” forgiveness?)
      - Isn't that what verses like Luke 17:3-4 imply? (more on that in a minute)





# *The Forgiveness of Sins*



Crazy deep dive into definitions...

- Let's take an even farther step back and define our terms—what is “forgiveness” anyway?
  - The Biblical words for “forgiveness”  
(both the Hebrew word “סְלִיחָה” [*səliḥâ*] and the Greek word “ἄφεσις” [*aphesis*])



forgiveness



# The Forgiveness of Sins



Crazy deep dive into definitions...

- Let's take an even farther step back and define our terms—what is “forgiveness” anyway?

- The Biblical words for “forgiveness” both mean roughly the same thing—to “pardon” or to “let it go”

- So by definition, when we “forgive” someone, we aren't saying that we forget that the infraction ever happened, or that we implicitly trust the person from this point forward never to do the action again, or even that we want to have unhindered and intimate relationship with that person from this point forward—what we're saying is that we refuse to hold the *guilt* for that action against their account any longer

(i.e.; insofar as their legal culpability is concerned—even within our relationship—we are choosing to “let it go”... even if we may still acknowledge that a legally culpable action has been committed by them)

(think of it like the person who is legally pardoned by the Governor because of some subsequent detail—it's not that the crimes never happened, or that the person is even being declared *innocent*, but rather that the *guilt* for any earlier crimes has been legally expunged from their record)

(note Colossians 2:13-14)



State of Illinois  
Executive Branch

TO: Circuit Clerk, Circuit Court of Cook County, Cook County, Illinois

Whereas, \_\_\_\_\_ was convicted of the crime of  
Drug Conspiracy; Man./Del. Cont. Sub.; Man./Del. Cont. Sub.; Man./Del. Cont. Sub.;  
Man./Del. Cont. Sub.; Man./Del. Cont. Sub.; Man./Del. Cont. Sub.,

\_\_\_\_\_ in the  
Circuit Court of Cook County and was sentenced \_\_\_\_\_

and whereas it has  
been represented to me that said \_\_\_\_\_ is a fit and proper  
subject for Executive Clemency.

Whereas, it has been represented to me that \_\_\_\_\_ is a fit and  
proper subject to Executive Clemency.

Now, Know Ye, that I, JB PRITZKER, Governor of the State of Illinois, by virtue of the  
authority vested in me by the Constitution of this State, do by these presents:

PARDON

of the said crime of which convicted, and \_\_\_\_\_ is hereby  
acquitted and discharged of and from all further imprisonment and restored to all the  
rights of citizenship which may have been forfeited by the conviction.

DATED: December 18, 2020



*JB Pritzker*  
JB PRITZKER  
GOVERNOR

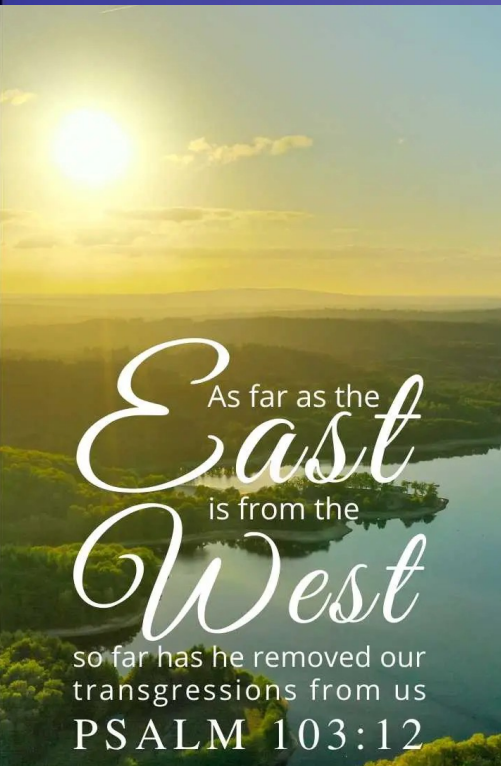


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    - How does David describe what it means when God forgives our sins in Psalm 103:10-12?
      - Is that how *you* think of God's personal reaction and response your sins? Why or why not?



As far as the  
*East*  
is from the  
*West*

so far has he removed our  
transgressions from us

PSALM 103:12

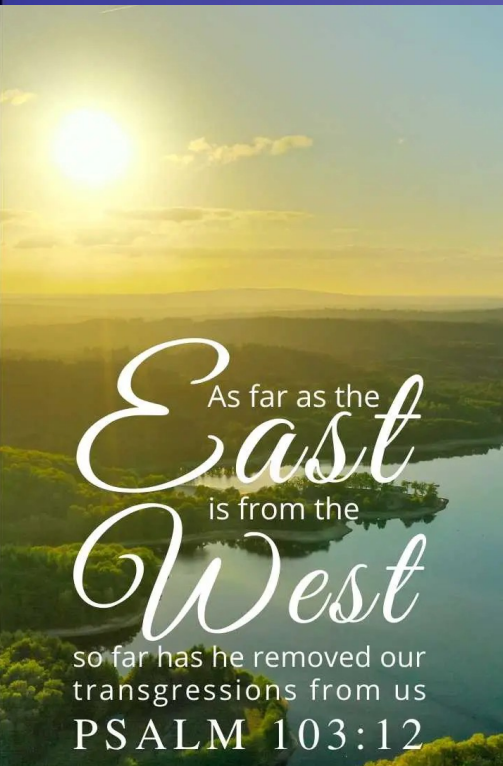


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    - How does David describe what it means when God forgives our sins in Psalm 103:10-12?
    - How is all of this possibly different from the way(s) that the average “person on the street” often thinks of “forgiveness” in general?



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    - Or beyond that, we can just feel so undeserving, like we haven't merited forgiveness from God or others
    - The consistent issue with all of these perspectives is that they presuppose that at some level, forgiveness is dependent on our innocence or our merit
      - Read Daniel 9:9
      - Read Romans 5:7-8
      - Is God's forgiveness of us dependent on our innocence or our merit?
        - Then why do we emotionally, relationally tend to think that it *must* be?



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    - Read Colossians 1:19-23
      - What aspects of God's forgiveness do you see?
        - Christ has reconciled “all things” to Himself—even His “alienated” “evil” “enemies”
        - He has made those people “holy” and “without blemish and free from accusation” in His sight through His blood shed on the cross  
(He has purchased a forgiveness to “pardon” sin and “let it go”)





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  - Read Colossians 1:19-23
  - So how does understanding “forgiveness” in those terms help us to deal with our emotional roadblocks?
    - Technically, forgiveness has nothing to do with repentance, or vice-versa (other than tangentially)
      - We should repent, whether forgiven or not
      - We should forgive, whether the violator has repented or not
      - But it's *perfected* when done *together*

