



Lord's Prayer (6): *Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors*

Q. 194. What do we pray for in the fifth petition?

A. In the fifth petition (which is, Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors), acknowledging that we and all others are guilty both of original and actual sin, and thereby become debtors to the justice of God; and that neither we, nor any other creature, can make the least satisfaction for that debt: we pray for ourselves and others, that God of his free grace would, through the obedience and satisfaction of Christ, apprehended and applied by faith, acquit us both from the guilt and punishment of sin, accept us in his Beloved; continue his favour and grace to us, pardon our daily failings, and fill us with peace and joy, in giving us daily more and more assurance of forgiveness; which we are the rather emboldened to ask, and encouraged to expect, when we have this testimony in ourselves, that we from the heart forgive others their offences.

1. What is forgiveness?

Matthew 18:21-35

How big was the first debt?

Why is sin compared to a 'debt'?

How easy was it to forgive the second debt?

What is forgiveness?

2. Why sin is a debt which needs to be paid

It's about God's justice Genesis 18:25b

It's about God's glory and holiness Isaiah 24:1,3,14-16a

3. Forgiveness: The heart of the gospel

Luke 23:39-43

Luke 24:46-47

Acts 2:38; 13:38-39

Galatians 3:12-14

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

4. Who gets forgiven by God?

Why must we *ask* God to forgive our sins?

Forgiveness is not automatic. Forgiveness comes by *faith* in Jesus' name.

To ask for forgiveness, we have to realise that we need it.

Luke 5:30-32

Luke 18:9-14

Luke 7:36-50

If we do not love Jesus, what does that say about us?

If we do not forgive others, what does that say about us?

Is forgiving others a *condition* of our forgiveness?

Why include 'as we forgive those who sin against us' in the *prayer*? What are we saying when we pray this?

5. So when we pray, 'Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us', we are...

- Asking that God would forgive us for our sins
- Asking that God would make us realise that our sins need forgiving, because they cannot be excused
- Admitting that we cannot justify ourselves; we cannot pay the debt of our sins ourselves
- Consciously laying hold of the crucified and risen Lord Jesus as our only saviour
- being reminded by God that true faith always means forgiving others
- surrendering our right to hold others' sins (debts) against them
- asking God to enable us, by the Spirit, to forgive others' sins (debts) against us

Prayer

I know I should forgive people, but if you knew what she had done to me, you would understand why I can't forgive her.

Lord, thank you that we are not evil like the world around us.

We need to confess the big sins of oppression and injustice most of all.

God is all-forgiving, so we really shouldn't talk about God's judgment. It puts people off.

Christians who believe in judgment are so harsh and judgmental.