

# Asking Forgiveness or Granting Forgiveness?

Shalom Estifanos, Year 6



**When you ask for forgiveness, you are acknowledging what you have done is wrong, so you want to mend the situation. Many people find that asking for forgiveness is challenging, but very few people understand others' feelings when they make jokes that are offensive or other actions that make others feel downhearted or enraged so they feel the need to apologise.**

This also applies to God and the way we treat Him, because in Romans 3:23 it states: 'for we all have fallen short of the glory of God.' This means even if we do commit sin, however small, we still fall short of God's glory. Yes, it is sometimes hard to ask for forgiveness but it is a very respectful way to live by, not only when we disappoint or displease other people, but God too. If we learn to be accountable for our sins, then we can learn how to make a positive and inspiring relationship with God.

When Jesus died on the cross He asked forgiveness on behalf of us from His Father, praying: 'Forgive them for they do not know what they are doing' (Luke 23:34). From this verse we learn that forgiveness belongs to God, Jesus reconciled us with God and doing wrong to someone is not knowing what we do. So we were sinners and we were supposed to ask for forgiveness, but Jesus did it for us. In my understanding we need to learn from Jesus. If what we do wrong is a mistake, then we can make up for it by asking for forgiveness.

Forgiveness is hard to grant at first, but we should all try to do it. When you forgive someone, you are making peace with that person and starting afresh with your friendship. In the Bible forgiveness is written about so many times, as for example Jesus forgiving Peter when he betrayed Him. God forgives us all the time when we commit sins because He loves us, and no sin can separate us from Him; because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, all of us can be forgiven. Luke 1:77 tells us: 'You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins.' This means when we turn from our sinful actions or sins to Jesus, who is pure, and we are truly sorry for our sin, God will forgive us and make us new.

Nowadays we think all of us are innocent or committing sins is not a problem at all, so many of us don't feel the need to say sorry. When we are doing wrong we think sin does not matter when it should matter. It does matter because we could be separated from God because of it and acting like we have never sinned is wrong because Jesus was the only person who has walked this earth without sin. That doesn't mean God will not forgive us. He will, if truly we are sorry and understand what we have done. He will forgive us because he loves us.

## Conclusion

Which is easier, asking or granting forgiveness? Either way, God asks us simply to make peace with someone.

My Mum's favourite prayer is St Francis', which asks:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;  
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
 Where there is injury, pardon;  
 Where there is error, truth  
 Where there is doubt, faith;  
 Where there is despair, hope;  
 Where there is darkness, light;  
 And where there is sadness, joy.  
 O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
 To be consoled, as to console;  
 To be understood, as to understand;  
 To be loved as to love.  
 For it is in giving that we receive; It is in pardoning  
 that we are pardoned;  
 And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
 Amen.

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