

Forgiveness

To begin study on any basic doctrine, it's often helpful to begin with the catechism and work from there.

The Fifth Petition

And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.

What does this mean? We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

What do we confess when we pray this petition?

We confess that we sin every day and deserve nothing but punishment.
Prov. 28:13

What do we ask for in this petition?

We ask that our Father in heaven would for Christ's sake graciously forgive our sins.
Psalm 19:12, Ps. 51:1-2, Ps. 130:3-4, Luke 18:13

Why do we include a prayer for forgiveness of sins in these petitions to our heavenly Father?

We are not worthy of the things for which we pray and have not deserved them. We therefore need God's forgiveness so that we may pray to Him confidently and in good conscience.

Where the heart is not right with God...it will never dare to pray.... A confident and joyful heart can come only from the knowledge that our sins are forgiven" (Large Catechism III 92).

Gen. 32:10, Ps. 32:5

What does God want us to do for those who sin against us?

Our heavenly Father wants us to forgive and to do good to those who sin against us.

Matt. 6:12, Matt. 18:21-22, Eph.

4:32

What does it show when we forgive others?

It shows that we truly believe that God has forgiven us.

"Inasmuch as we sin greatly against God every day and yet He forgives it all through grace, we must always forgive our neighbor who does us harm, violence, and injustice [and] bears malice toward us. If you do not forgive, do not think that God forgives you" (Large Catechism III 94-95).

Matt. 6:4-15

I. Take it from there:

II. What does it mean to forgive?

A. How has God forgiven us?

2Co 5:19; Ps 25:7; Ps 51:9; Lu 24:47; Ac 2:38; 1Jo 1:9; Re 1:5

B. How do we forgive others?

Ex 23:4-5; Pr 24:17; Pr 24:29; Mt 5:39-47; 18:21-35; Ro 12:14-21

III. Are we to forgive all wrongs?

Mt 18:22; Jer 5:7; Mt 12:31-32; Lu 17:3-4; Mt 5:38-47

IV. Are we to forget in addition to forgiving?

Nu 14:18-24; Ps 99:8; 2Sa 12:13-14

V. Does forgiveness take away the pain?

Lu 23:34; 1Co 4:12-13

