

Forgiveness as Related to Sin

1. Sin always has an object,
 - a. Sometimes, sin is against God, Psalms 51:4
 - b. Sometimes, sin is against another person, Mark 10:11, I Corinthians 8:12-13
 - c. Sometimes, sin is against ourselves, I Corinthians 6:18
 - d. A single sin may be against more than one object
 - i. Adultery is a sin against a person and against God at the same time
 - ii. Cf. David sinned against God in raping Bathsheba, and *also* sinned against Bathsheba.
 - e. The concept of a victimless crime (sin) is no more than a smokescreen to mitigate damage done by sin
 - i. The fact that the damage is done “with consent”, as in “sex between consenting adults” cannot obviate the sin
2. Some actions that cause another to be offended are not sin, Matthew 13:57, 14:27, 17:27; Mark 6:3, 15:12
 - a. “Make my brother to offend” is to cause another to sin, Romans 14:21; I Corinthians 8:13
 - b. It is possible to offend another without causing them to offend, i.e. using one’s “deadname” while ignorant of their gender transitioning
3. Sin may be corporate or individual, so with repentance and forgiveness
4. Remorse and repentance are properly expressed *to* the *object* of the sin
5. Forgiveness can only be extended *by* the *object* of the sin
6. Requests for forgiveness are properly made by *any interested party on behalf* of the transgressor to the object of the sin, James 5:14-16 (where the object was God, who forgives when approached in prayer)
 - a. Requiring public confession and repentance (tenuous)
 - i. Matthew 3:5-6
 - ii. Acts 8:22-24
 - iii. I John 1:9, where the verb *homologomen* translated “confess” is first person, plural, present tense, subjunctive mood, and active voice (Analytical Greek Lexicon, p.289). In other words, the action contemplated in “confess” is continuous action.
 - b. Public acknowledgement critical to maintaining fellowship (much stronger)
 - i. I John 1:2-3
 - ii. Ephesians 5:11
 - iii. Titus 3:10-11
 - iv. I Corinthians 5:2-13
 - v. Repentance and remorse expressed to the object, made known publicly so that fellowship might be maintained