

Experience Complete Forgiveness

We seem to be people who either are heavily burdened with guilt, or we just plain don't care. We all deal with guilt in different ways that are not always good. Is there a good way?

We should acknowledge the fact that the attitude most Americans have regarding their sin can be described as apathy. They don't care, even though we as believers believe sin is a deadly serious matter. If I were to preach about the seriousness of sin to the average group of non-believers in America they would not take it with any sense of fear and trembling. In fact, they would likely tell me that I am not politically correct, and that to be politically correct it would be best for me to avoid the term "sin" and any talk of hell altogether. They would probably say that what I had to say is outdated, intolerant, judgmental, and offensive.

In Romans 6:23, the deadly seriousness of sin is put like this. "The wages of sin is death."

Do you feel guilty? What can we do about guilt? First of all we can deny responsibility. We can be like Pilate. He washed his hands of the crucifixion of Jesus and basically said, "Don't look at me. Blame the crowds. It was their choice. I am not guilty. My hands are clean." Another thing you can do is take all of the guilt upon yourself. Be a Judas. His guilt was evidently so overwhelming that he could no longer find the capacity to go ahead in life, so he chose to end his life. If you don't want to go that far with it, maybe there is a third option. Just carry the guilt for your sins around believing God could never forgive you. Just choose not to believe anything the Bible teaches about God's willingness to forgive your sins. Beat yourself up with your guilt. Get locked into the past and chose not to move into the future that God has designed for your life.

Jesus didn't die on the cross because of anything He had done wrong. God did not inflict his son with any sort of deserved punishment. It was for my sins, and for your sins, that he endured such pain. Every one of us at some time in our life probably owned an Etch-A-Sketch. The great thing about an Etch-A-Sketch is that any time you make a mistake, you can turn it over, shake it and the image would disappear and you could start over again. Jesus will let you do the same thing with your sins if you are willing to let Him turn your life upside-down.

I mentioned three options you could choose to face your guilt. They were all bad options. Let's see what you really need to do now. #1. If you have not accepted Christ as your Savior, then begin by looking in a mirror and admitting that because of your sin you are separated from God. #2. Receive the gift God is offering you.

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