

Forgiveness: Release. Reset. Renew

Luke 23:34

October 31, 2021

“Father ...”

- A prayer offered within the relationship of the trinity.
- Seeking the father shows humility.

“... forgive them ...”

- Who is “them”?
- Jesus forgives all who place their hope in Him.
(John 3:16)

“... for they do not know ...”

- We sin out of our ignorance. (Rom. 8:5-8)
- Apart from knowledge, we don't understand the weight of our actions. (1 Cor. 2:8)

“... what they are doing.”

- Ignorance does not excuse our sin.
(Rom. 1:18-21)
- The debt must be paid.

Let us not remain ignorant.

Let us show our gratitude by imitating Christ.

(Acts 7:54-60)

Life Group Homework

1. READ 1 Corinthians 2:6-16. What does this passage say about what we, as believers, should know? What discernment is available to us as His people?
2. READ 1 John 2:1-5 and Hebrews 7:22-28. What is the significance of Jesus interceding (praying) on our behalf? Why does He continue to do that if we've been forgiven? How is this like the role of the priests?
3. Do you ever excuse your own sin because of ignorance? Are you as quick to forgive others or do you withhold forgiveness because they “should have known better”?
4. How is the forgiveness we can offer different than what Jesus offers? How is it similar? How does Stephen's forgiveness inform our own ability to forgive?