

Forgiveness [ἄφεσις, *aphesis*]

ἄφεσις, *aphesis*, noun.

Release, liberation, forgiveness (*EDNT*);

The act of freeing or liberating or releasing someone from captivity; The act of freeing from an obligation, guilt or punishment; Pardon, cancellation. (*BDAG*)

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Col. 1:14, “in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

Eph. 1:7, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

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Acts 10:43, “To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission [forgiveness] of sins.”

Acts 26:18, “to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.”

FOUR Categories of Forgiveness

1. Forgiveness directed toward God, where the justice of God cancels the debt of sin. For all mankind without distinction.
2. Forgiveness directed toward individuals, related to imputation of Christ's righteousness and justification. *Positional* forgiveness.
3. Forgiveness of the believer's ongoing sins at confession, 1 John 1:9. *Experiential* forgiveness.
4. Forgiveness toward others as a reflection of God's grace toward us. (Eph. 4:32)

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Col. 2:13, “And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

Col. 2:14, “having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”

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Col. 2:14, “[when He] wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has [completely lifted] it out of the way, [by] nailing it to the cross.”

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4. Forgiveness toward others as a reflection of God's grace toward us. (Eph. 4:32)

Eph. 4:32, “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”