

I am forgiven!

vintage
faith

Memory verse: Psalm 32:1-2a

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them...

Review – I live out of my identity (who I am and who I think I am).

In Christ I have a new identity!

In Christ I am . . .

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|--------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|
| • Beloved | (Romans 1:7) | • Transformed | (2 Cor. 5:17) |
| • Forgiven | (Hebrews 10:17) | • Free | (Galatians 5:1) |
| • Adopted | (Ephesians 1:5) | • Blessed | (Ephesians 1:3) |
| • Chosen | (John 15:16) | • Treasured | (Malachi 3:17) |
| • Holy | (Ephesians 1:4) | • Saved | (Ephesians 2:8) |
| • Righteous | (Romans 3:22) | • Redeemed | (1 Peter 1:18) |
| • Eternal | (John 3:16) | • Whole | (Colossians 2:10) |
| • Victorious | (1 Cor. 15:57) | • Empowered | (Acts 1:8) |
| • Clean | (1 Cor. 6:11) | • A saint | (1 Corinthians 1:2) |
| • Pure | (Titus 1:5) | • Secure | (Romans 8:38-39) |
| • Strong | (2 Cor. 12:10) | • Called | (Romans 8:30) |
| • Royal | (1 Peter 2:9) | • Gifted | (1 Corinthians 12:7) |
| • Conqueror | (Romans 8:21) | • Rich | (Ephesians 1:18) |
| • New | (1 Peter 1:23) | | |

Because I have experiences and an enemy that tell me otherwise, I have to learn to tell myself the truth about who I really am.

In Christ I am forgiven.

1. I have sinned against God. (Romans 3:23)
2. Without the shedding of blood, there can be no forgiveness. (Hebr. 9:22)

3. Jesus shed his own blood for the forgiveness of my sins

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. -Isaiah 53:5

But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. -Hebrews 9:26

Which sins? All!

*He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.
-Colossians 2:13b-14*

My record is clean . The verdict is in. NOT guilty!

4. There is nothing more that can be done for my sin

And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary. – Heb. 10:18 (NIV)

I can come to God with freedom and confidence! (Hebrews 4:16)

5. God won't remember my sins

"Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." - Heb 8:12, 10:17, Jeremiah 31:34

6. My sins are gone forever

as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. -Ps 103:12

you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. -Mic. 7:19b

you have put all my sins behind your back. -Isaiah 38:17

I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. -Isaiah 44:22

Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. -Isaiah 1:18

7. I don't have to be afraid of being punished.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. -Romans 8:1

"Christ came to redeem us from the curse of the Law. The Law cannot judge what Christ has already forgiven."
-Paul Zahl

8. I don't have to listen to any accusation.

Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. -Romans 8:34

"So when the devil throws your sins in your face and declares that you deserve death and hell, tell him this: 'I admit that I deserve death and hell. What of it? For I know One who suffered and made satisfaction on my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ, Son of God, and where He is, there I shall be also!'" -Martin Luther

Conviction vs Condemnation

Conviction comes from the Holy Spirit and leads to repentance, restoration, and peace (2 Cor. 7:10).

Condemnation comes from Satan or our own negative self-talk and results in shame, fear, and separation from God (1 John 3:20).

"Understanding the difference between conviction and condemnation is crucial for spiritual growth. While condemnation seeks to imprison us in guilt and despair, conviction is God's loving invitation to experience His grace and renewal." -James Fam

Exercise: Does this sound like conviction or condemnation?

- You sinned this morning, you probably shouldn't be praying.
- You sinned, come to God and he will help you.
- You sinned, you should hide it so you don't get in trouble.
- You sinned, you should confess it so you can receive grace and your friends can pray.
- You sinned, you are a bad person.
- You sinned, that's not who you are, you should stop.

Why does God forgive me? Because repentance and reconciliation make him really happy.

Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. -Micah 7:18

Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. - Luke 15:7

Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her, and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And the LORD loved him. -2 Samuel 12:24

If God takes pleasure in taking away my sins, I can happily let them go.

Thus far did I come laden with my sin,
Nor could aught ease the grief that I was in,
Till I came hither. What a place is this!
Must here be the beginning of my bliss?
Must here the burden fall from off my back?
Must here the strings that bound it to me crack?
Blest cross! blest sepulchre! blest rather be
The Man that there was put to shame for me!
-John Bunyan, The Pilgrims Progress

Exercise: I still feel ashamed when I think about _____.