

We Believe

Exploring the Apostle's Creed

THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS

We Believe

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I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.

AND IN JESUS CHRIST, HIS ONLY SON, OUR LORD; WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT; BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY;

SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE; WAS CRUCIFIED, DEAD AND BURIED; HE DESCENDED INTO HELL; THE THIRD DAY HE

ROSE AGAIN FROM THE DEAD;

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**HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN; AND SITS AT
THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY;
FROM WHENCE HE SHALL COME TO JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.
I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT;**

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**THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH,
THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS; THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS;
THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY;
AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING. AMEN.**

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**THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS IS ESSENTIAL AND
TRANSFORMATIVE**

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WHAT DOES THE ASCENSION MEAN TO ME?

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**³⁶ONE OF THE PHARISEES ASKED JESUS TO HAVE DINNER
WITH HIM, SO JESUS WENT TO HIS HOME AND SAT DOWN TO
EAT.**

LUKE 7:36-50 (NLT)

**³⁷WHEN A CERTAIN IMMORAL WOMAN FROM THAT CITY
HEARD HE WAS EATING THERE, SHE BROUGHT A BEAUTIFUL
ALABASTER JAR FILLED WITH EXPENSIVE PERFUME.**

LUKE 7:36-50 (NLT)

**³⁸THEN SHE KNELT BEHIND HIM AT HIS FEET, WEEPING. HER TEARS
FELL ON HIS FEET, AND SHE WIPE THEM OFF WITH HER HAIR. THEN
SHE KEPT KISSING HIS FEET AND PUTTING PERFUME ON THEM.**

LUKE 7:36-50 (NLT)

**³⁹WHEN THE PHARISEE WHO HAD INVITED HIM SAW THIS, HE SAID
TO HIMSELF, “IF THIS MAN WERE A PROPHET, HE WOULD KNOW
WHAT KIND OF WOMAN IS TOUCHING HIM. SHE’S A SINNER!”**

LUKE 7:36-50 (NLT)

**⁴⁰THEN JESUS ANSWERED HIS THOUGHTS. “SIMON,” HE SAID TO
THE PHARISEE, “I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO YOU.”**

“GO AHEAD, TEACHER,” SIMON REPLIED.

LUKE 7:36-50 (NLT)

**⁴¹THEN JESUS TOLD HIM THIS STORY: “A MAN LOANED
MONEY TO TWO PEOPLE—500 PIECES OF SILVER TO ONE
AND 50 PIECES TO THE OTHER.**

LUKE 7:36-50 (NLT)

**⁴²BUT NEITHER OF THEM COULD REPAY HIM, SO HE KINDLY
FORGAVE THEM BOTH, CANCELING THEIR DEBTS. WHO DO
YOU SUPPOSE LOVED HIM MORE AFTER THAT?”**

LUKE 7:36-50 (NLT)

**43SIMON ANSWERED, “I SUPPOSE THE ONE FOR WHOM HE
CANCELED THE LARGER DEBT.”
“THAT’S RIGHT,” JESUS SAID.**

LUKE 7:36-50 (NLT)

⁴⁴THEN HE TURNED TO THE WOMAN AND SAID TO SIMON, “LOOK AT THIS WOMAN KNEELING HERE. WHEN I ENTERED YOUR HOME, YOU DIDN’T OFFER ME WATER TO WASH THE DUST FROM MY FEET, BUT SHE HAS WASHED THEM WITH HER TEARS AND WIPED THEM WITH HER HAIR.

LUKE 7:36-50 (NLT)

**⁴⁵YOU DIDN'T GREET ME WITH A KISS, BUT FROM THE TIME I
FIRST CAME IN, SHE HAS NOT STOPPED KISSING MY FEET.
LUKE 7:36-50 (NLT)**

**⁴⁶YOU NEGLECTED THE COURTESY OF OLIVE OIL TO ANOINT
MY HEAD, BUT SHE HAS ANOINTED MY FEET WITH RARE
PERFUME.**

LUKE 7:36-50 (NLT)

**⁴⁷“I TELL YOU, HER SINS—AND THEY ARE MANY—HAVE BEEN
FORGIVEN, SO SHE HAS SHOWN ME MUCH LOVE. BUT A
PERSON WHO IS FORGIVEN LITTLE SHOWS ONLY LITTLE LOVE.”
LUKE 7:36-50 (NLT)**

**⁴⁸THEN JESUS SAID TO THE WOMAN, “YOUR SINS ARE
FORGIVEN.”**

LUKE 7:36-50 (NLT)

**49 THE MEN AT THE TABLE SAID AMONG THEMSELVES, “WHO
IS THIS MAN, THAT HE GOES AROUND FORGIVING SINS?”
LUKE 7:36-50 (NLT)**

**⁵⁰AND JESUS SAID TO THE WOMAN, “YOUR FAITH HAS
SAVED YOU; GO IN PEACE.”**

LUKE 7:36-50 (NLT)

**DO OUR HEARTS RESEMBLE MORE THE SINFUL WOMAN OR
THE PHARISEE?**

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TWO POSITIONS OF THE HEART:

- RECOGNIZING YOUR NEED FOR FORGIVENESS

OR

- DENYING YOUR NEED FOR FORGIVENESS

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**¹⁴EVEN GENTILES, WHO DO NOT HAVE GOD'S WRITTEN LAW,
SHOW THAT THEY KNOW HIS LAW WHEN THEY
INSTINCTIVELY OBEY IT, EVEN WITHOUT HAVING HEARD IT.
ROMANS 2:14-15 (NLT)**

**¹⁵THEY DEMONSTRATE THAT GOD'S LAW IS WRITTEN IN THEIR
HEARTS, FOR THEIR OWN CONSCIENCE AND THOUGHTS EITHER
ACCUSE THEM OR TELL THEM THEY ARE DOING RIGHT.**

ROMANS 2:14-15 (NLT)

**²⁸SINCE THEY THOUGHT IT FOOLISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE
GOD, HE ABANDONED THEM TO THEIR FOOLISH THINKING
AND LET THEM DO THINGS THAT SHOULD NEVER BE DONE.**

ROMANS 1:28-32 (NLT)

**²⁹THEIR LIVES BECAME FULL OF EVERY KIND OF WICKEDNESS,
SIN, GREED, HATE, ENVY, MURDER, QUARRELING, DECEPTION,
MALICIOUS BEHAVIOR, AND GOSSIP.**

ROMANS 1:28-32 (NLT)

**³⁰THEY ARE BACKSTABBERS, HATERS OF GOD, INSOLENT,
PROUD, AND BOASTFUL. THEY INVENT NEW WAYS OF
SINNING, AND THEY DISOBEY THEIR PARENTS.**

ROMANS 1:28-32 (NLT)

**³¹THEY REFUSE TO UNDERSTAND, BREAK THEIR PROMISES,
ARE HEARTLESS, AND HAVE NO MERCY.**

ROMANS 1:28-32 (NLT)

**³²THEY KNOW GOD'S JUSTICE REQUIRES THAT THOSE WHO DO
THESE THINGS DESERVE TO DIE, YET THEY DO THEM ANYWAY.
WORSE YET, THEY ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO THEM, TOO.**

ROMANS 1:28-32 (NLT)

¹YOU MAY THINK YOU CAN CONDEMN SUCH PEOPLE, BUT YOU ARE JUST AS BAD, AND YOU HAVE NO EXCUSE! WHEN YOU SAY THEY ARE WICKED AND SHOULD BE PUNISHED, YOU ARE CONDEMNING YOURSELF, FOR YOU WHO JUDGE OTHERS DO THESE VERY SAME THINGS.

ROMANS 2:1-4 (NLT)

**²AND WE KNOW THAT GOD, IN HIS JUSTICE, WILL PUNISH
ANYONE WHO DOES SUCH THINGS.**

ROMANS 2:1-4 (NLT)

**³SINCE YOU JUDGE OTHERS FOR DOING THESE THINGS,
WHY DO YOU THINK YOU CAN AVOID GOD'S JUDGMENT
WHEN YOU DO THE SAME THINGS?**

ROMANS 2:1-4 (NLT)

**⁴DON'T YOU SEE HOW WONDERFULLY KIND, TOLERANT, AND PATIENT
GOD IS WITH YOU? DOES THIS MEAN NOTHING TO YOU? CAN'T YOU
SEE THAT HIS KINDNESS IS INTENDED TO TURN YOU FROM YOUR SIN?**

ROMANS 2:1-4 (NLT)

**OUR FORGIVENESS BUILDS OUR LOVE FOR GOD AND FOR
NEIGHBOR**

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**⁴⁷“I TELL YOU, HER SINS—AND THEY ARE MANY—HAVE BEEN
FORGIVEN, SO SHE HAS SHOWN ME MUCH LOVE. BUT A
PERSON WHO IS FORGIVEN LITTLE SHOWS ONLY LITTLE LOVE.”
LUKE 7:47-48 (NLT)**

**⁴⁸THEN JESUS SAID TO THE WOMAN, “YOUR SINS ARE
FORGIVEN.”**

LUKE 7:47-48 (NLT)

JESUS' FORGIVENESS MAKES US WHOLE

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**⁵⁰AND JESUS SAID TO THE WOMAN, “YOUR FAITH HAS
SAVED YOU; GO IN PEACE.”**

LUKE 7:50 (NLT)

**¹SO NOW THERE IS NO CONDEMNATION FOR THOSE WHO
BELONG TO CHRIST JESUS.**

ROMANS 8:1-4 (NLT)

**²AND BECAUSE YOU BELONG TO HIM, THE POWER OF THE
LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT HAS FREED YOU FROM THE POWER OF
SIN THAT LEADS TO DEATH.**

ROMANS 8:1-4 (NLT)

³THE LAW OF MOSES WAS UNABLE TO SAVE US BECAUSE OF THE WEAKNESS OF OUR SINFUL NATURE. SO GOD DID WHAT THE LAW COULD NOT DO. HE SENT HIS OWN SON IN A BODY LIKE THE BODIES WE SINNERS HAVE. AND IN THAT BODY GOD DECLARED AN END TO SIN'S CONTROL OVER US BY GIVING HIS SON AS A SACRIFICE FOR OUR SINS.

ROMANS 8:1-4 (NLT)

**⁴HE DID THIS SO THAT THE JUST REQUIREMENT OF THE LAW
WOULD BE FULLY SATISFIED FOR US, WHO NO LONGER FOLLOW
OUR SINFUL NATURE BUT INSTEAD FOLLOW THE SPIRIT.**

ROMANS 8:1-4 (NLT)