



Dear Friends,

Have you ever given a gift to someone only to have them reject it? It feels lousy, doesn't it, especially if that gift cost you a lot of money or it took time to find just the right one. You can't imagine why the person would refuse it.

Yet this is exactly what we do when we don't accept God's forgiveness after having confessing our sins to him. Instead we keep wallowing in guilt and shame. For example, let's say that I went too far sexually before I married. I feel very guilty and realize how damaging that is and how much it is against what God says to do, so I confess my sin to God. But for the next ten years, even after marrying and confessing my sin to my spouse I carry the guilt and shame of what I have done, and it hinders our marriage. I confessed it, didn't I? Why do I still feel guilty?

It's because I have rejected God's gift of forgiveness. He is holding his forgiveness out to me in his hands, but I am not receiving it. In essence I am saying that Jesus' death on the cross was not good enough to pay for my sin, to buy me forgiveness. WOW! How arrogant to believe that I and my sin are so unique that out of all the sin in the world, my sin can't be forgiven. In a way it is a slap in Jesus' face....

We all know that Satan likes to remind us of our past sins. He likes to heap shame upon shame over us so we remain chained to it. THAT IS NOT GOD'S WAY. Listen to what God says:

Titus 2:14 He [Jesus] gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

1 Corinthians 6:11 Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 John 1:7-9 But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

What have you done that you can't seem to get out from under? Have you confessed it as sin? Have you agreed with God that Jesus' death has already paid for it so that you can be forgiven? And then have you accepted God's forgiveness, thanking him for making you clean?

Heavenly Father, Thank you.....

Blessings from Bev



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