

Sovereign Grace Church
“Breathing Mercy” outline
July 29, 2018

Heidelberg Catechism 126

We return this Sunday to our consideration of the biblical teaching contained in the Heidelberg Catechism. The Catechism's final section concerns the Lord's Prayer as a paradigm of how we are to converse with out God.

This morning we come to a particularly challenging aspect of this prayer. Jesus tells us that we are to appeal to God for His forgiveness of our sins.....sins which continue to plague us even as we seek to follow Jesus as our Savior and Lord. What makes this challenge so interesting as well as difficult is how our expected forgiveness from God is tied so plainly to our own forgiveness of others who have injured us.

How can God's forgiveness of us be tied to our forgiveness of others without getting involved in some form of work's righteousness? A righteousness that seems so sorely deficient in every way! This morning we will consider this request for forgiveness from God as well as His plain expectation that His forgiveness will reflect a forgiveness that we are ready to extend to those who offend and/or injure us.

1. What are Debts? How are they related to trespasses and sins?

A brief history of Tyndale's translation and its consequences

2. We are to ask God for forgiveness when we sin. Matt 6: 12a

- **The meaning of forgiveness**
Isa. 43:25

- **Why should we ask God to forgive us?**
Eph. 1:7; Jn 17:3

- **How do we go about asking for forgiveness?**
3. **How is God's willingness to forgive us dependent on our willingness to forgive others?**
Matt 6: 12b, 14-15
- **Why the conditional?**
Psm 39: 6; Lam 3: 22; II Cor. 5: 17; Eph. 4: 31-32
- **How do we forgive others?**

Questions for Thought and Conversation

1. **How have you understood this passage before today? Has today's message challenged that understanding in any way? In what way?**
2. **For what do you need to ask God's forgiveness? Do you find yourself asking for God's forgiveness for the same sins again and again? Does God forgive you again and again? Is there a limit as to how many times you can seek forgiveness before God will "cut you off"? How should God's attitude toward us affect our attitude toward others?**
3. **Is it possible to forgive a person who does not want our forgiveness? Does someone need to repent before they can be forgiven? Does someone need to repent before than can be extended forgiveness? In extending forgiveness are we forgiving them? Do you think those who had crucified Jesus wanted the forgiveness Jesus extended to them? Do you think they were forgiven?**
4. **Can you think of people you need to forgive? Are you able to forgive them? Have you forgiven them? If not, why not? Have you been more offended by them more than God has been offended by you? How does pride affect our ability to both forgive and receive forgiveness? What can be done about it?**