

**Reading**

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❖ Matthew 6:9-15

**Study**

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1. Verses 14 and 15 can cause some theological problems. It appears that God's forgiveness to us is based on our forgiveness toward others. Indeed, the NIV translation seems to suggest this. We are made to think that we need to forgive others *so that* God will forgive us. But we know that God's forgiveness comes to us freely. So that can't be right.

What is clear here (and in the previous passages we have studied this week) is that God's forgiveness and our forgiveness are intricately linked. Forgiving others is the inevitable result of knowing God's forgiveness and if we are not moving to forgive others then we need to question if God's forgiveness is all that real in our lives.

Put verse 12 in your own words.

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What do verses 14 and 15 say to you?

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## Pray

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- ❖ “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin ... Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.” (Psalm 51:1,2,7)  
Write out your own prayer of confession on a separate page.

*For our church:*

- ❖ As we all worship and minister together may we each have the prayer of the Psalmist on our lips, “*Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.*” (Psalm 115:1)
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