

Unconditional Forgiveness

I. Introduction:

A. A false teacher named Antoine N. Holloway taught this in September & October 2003 among the Caroline Street church of Christ which was (he divided and destroyed that congregation) in South Bend, IN. He taught the following to get financial aid from a practicing Baptist man (Van Gurley) who was wealthy, owned a car dealership, etc. (hmmm... **II Peter 2:1-3**). I have heard this same man teach that man has to repent to be pardoned. Hmmm... He knew and could teach the truth on this (cf. **Luke 20:1-7**). He has never confessed and repented of the following. He sinned against me in the situation and has NEVER reached out and he has denied my attempts (which were witnessed by others) in reaching him. With **Romans 16:17-18** in mind, here is what he taught:

1. "God forgives unconditionally. God forgives, unconditionally. And because God forgives unconditionally we as Christians must also forgive unconditionally." Hear it for yourself:

<https://www.wordsoftruth.net/godandusmustforgivuncond.mp3>

2. "Now what's the difference between conditional forgiveness and unconditional forgiveness? There, there, really is no difference because there is no such thing as conditional forgiveness." Hear it for yourself:

<https://www.wordsoftruth.net/nodifferencecondforgive.mp3>

3. "Where are you tonight? Do you still believe that in order for you to forgive somebody, they have to do something to you first. They have to ax you, they have to repent of their sin first. In order to forgive you-if that's your position tonight you need to come forward on tonight and ask God to give you the strength to carry out your Christian obligation in forgiven them whether they repent or not." Hear it for yourself:

<https://www.wordsoftruth.net/repentifyouteachtruth.mp3>

4. Among many other words, "The position of the Bible is unconditional forgiveness." Hear it for yourself:

<https://www.wordsoftruth.net/poistionofbibleuncon.mp3>

5. "Remission. What is remission preacher? Remission is a medical term... When God gives us the forgiveness of sins, we understand - through our studies of the scriptures that in order for us as Christians to receive the remission of sins (**God's already forgiven us**), but in order for us to receive the remission of sins (which is required for us to be saved) the Bible teaches we must hear the Gospel, believe the Gospel, repent of our sins, confess Christ, and be baptized. Once we are baptized God puts our sin in remission... Doesn't mean that sin has all of a sudden disappeared...". Hear it for yourself:

<https://www.wordsoftruth.net/Remissionofsinserror.mp3>

6. When exposed, this man did not repent. Instead, he attacked: "One of my favorite quotes. Jesus said give not that which is holy to the dogs... My family has been here for seven months and have gone unappreciated

by many... I didn't even take time to write down and prepare a sermon... because it was going to go unappreciated." Hear it for yourself:

<https://www.wordsoftruth.net/Antoinenotappreciated.mp3>

7. "Your sins have already been forgiven 2,000 years ago. It is your responsibility now to have them remitted. Acts chapter 2 verse 38." Hear it for yourself: <https://www.wordsoftruth.net/remitted2000yearsago.mp3>

B. So, our question is - Does God forgive unconditionally and must or even should we, do the same?

1. When we discuss forgiveness, we will be talking about the term as it is translated in **Ephesians 1:7** meaning: "1) release from bondage or imprisonment; 2) forgiveness or pardon, of sins (letting them go as if they had never been committed), remission of the penalty" (Thayer; Strong's # 859). Strong's says: "freedom; (figuratively) pardon: - deliverance, forgiveness, liberty, remission."

2. By the word unconditional, which does not appear in the Bible, we will be using it as defined in English: "not subject to any conditions" (New Oxford American Dictionary).

3. While Antoine liked to make "remission" and "forgiveness" something different. In the verse of his usage, **Acts 2:38**, the term is the same one as in **Ephesians 1:7** (Strong's #859). See the definition in point 1 above.

II. Body: God, Very Clearly, Makes Forgiveness; Pardon of Sins - Conditional (**Isaiah 55:6-7**, **Jeremiah 36:1-3**, and **Acts 3:19**).

A. "IF" is pretty clear in the Scriptures (**I Chronicles 28:9**).

1. If... **II Chronicles 7:14**
2. If... **II Chronicles 30:9**
3. If... **Nehemiah 1:9**
4. If... **Jeremiah 4:1**
5. If... **Jeremiah 18:8**
6. If... **Jeremiah 26:3**
7. If... **Ezekiel 18:21**
8. If... **Matthew 6:14-15**
9. If... **Matthew 18:35**
10. If... **I John 1:9**

B. Man has long understood that there are conditions to God's forgiveness (**Lamentations 3:39-44** and **Acts 2:36-41**).

1. The priests were taught this of old (**Deuteronomy 21:8-9**).
2. When Jesus came, true seekers understood it too (**Luke 19:1-10**).

C. A true man of God would not be so careless on the forgiveness of sin (**Acts 8:18-24**).

1. Preaching of the truth is about turning people from sin to God (**Acts 26:18-20**).
2. John did so in preparing the way for Jesus (**Matthew 3:1-8**).

3. Jesus preached it when He came (**Matthew 4:12-17**).
 4. Repentance is about turning away from sin (**Ezekiel 14:6; 18:30**).
 5. Just confessing sin is not enough (**Proverbs 28:13**).
- D. Our forgiveness of sins must be conditional too (**Luke 17:1-4**).
1. Some may counter by using **Matthew 18:21-35**, but read the whole context (**Matthew 18:15-35**).
 2. Our forgiveness is to be patterned after our Lord's forgiveness which we have clearly seen is conditional [confess; repent; converted, etc.] (**Ephesians 4:32** and **Colossians 3:12-13**).

III. Conclusion: If you have erred [sinned; transgressed], you'd better do your part to receive forgiveness (**Luke 13:1-9**).