



## I'M SORRY GOD

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*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

1 John 1:9

Years ago, when I was still driving, I was pulled over after going through a school zone. The officer asked me, "Did you know what your speed was?" I didn't.

When he told me I'd been going too fast, all I could say was, "I'm sorry. I didn't realize it. I'll try not to do that again."

I didn't get a ticket. The officer forgave me.

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How would you have responded in such a situation? I can't see another way. Though my husband did kind of laugh when I told him about my promise not to do it again.

In the Lord's prayer Jesus taught us to pray, *"Forgive us our debts."* (Matt 6:12) He continues, saying: *"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."* (vs 14,15)

Imagine if the world were filled with individuals who willingly apologized and accepted apologies! So many problems could be solved . . . and with humility. Think of the peace!

But the Bible tells us to do more. *"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,"* (Acts 3:19)

Problems arise when people think there is no need to apologize or confess their sins to God. Some feel there is no need to repent—no need to turn toward God with sorrow for what they've done. Some believe that when Jesus died for their sins, his grace would free them from all sin. Nothing more required from them.

But think of what could happen if we didn't feel remorse for the wrongs we had done. If we didn't surrender to God in repentance with a desire to change. We might feel free to keep doing wrong again and again. That's not what God had in mind when he offered his forgiveness.

True forgiveness is freeing. It comes from knowing that Jesus loved you enough to take the punishment for your sins. Knowing that you're forgiven helps you experience joy. You will be able to feel the gratitude that comes when you have a burden lifted from your shoulders.

Take ownership of the wrong you have done. Talk to God and ask him to release you from the guilt it brings..

*"I'm sorry God. I know I sinned and feel bad about it. Please forgive me. I'll try to do better."*

This is not a difficult thing to say.

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