



SWEETENED

Part 5: Sorry

October 20 & 21, 2018

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This series in a nutshell: Use your words.

Today's word is sorry.

My definition of *sorry*: The tool I use to smooth over relational stress

God's definition of *sorry*: The tool he uses to surgically remove pride from my soul

The Surgical Components of a Sincere Apology

1) **Humbly acknowledge that you were wrong**

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. – Psalm 51:3-4

But I confess my sins; I am deeply sorry for what I have done. – Psalm 38:18

But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. – Psalm 19:12

2) **Sincerely ask for forgiveness**

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

– Psalm 51:10

3) **Believe that God can and will forgive you**

My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise. – Psalm 51:17 (see also 1 John 1:9)

4) **Tell the story of God's forgiveness**

Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. – Psalm 51:14-15

Use your words: Make the ask.

Offer the Gift: Forgiven people forgive people.

Psalm 32:1-7 NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

- ¹ Oh, what joy for those
whose disobedience is forgiven,
whose sin is put out of sight!
- ² Yes, what joy for those
whose record the LORD has cleared of guilt,
whose lives are lived in complete honesty!
- ³ When I refused to confess my sin,
my body wasted away,
and I groaned all day long.
- ⁴ Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me.
My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat.
- ⁵ Finally, I confessed all my sins to you
and stopped trying to hide my guilt.
I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the LORD."
And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.
- ⁶ Therefore, let all the godly pray to you while there is still time,
that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgment.
- ⁷ For you are my hiding place;
you protect me from trouble.
You surround me with songs of victory.

Next Step: Baptism

Luke 3:3 says, "Then John went from place to place... preaching that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven." If you've turned your life over to God and received his forgiveness but have never been baptized, next weekend is your opportunity! To be included, be sure to attend the baptism class today (Saturday, 7:15 PM or Sunday, 12:30 PM). See details on today's program insert or ask at the Connection Point.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What's your favorite tool?
- 2) When was the last time you offered or received a sincere apology? What happened?
- 3) Read Psalm 51 from beginning to end. David wrote this after he was caught in adultery. Does knowing the backstory change the way you read the Psalm? What touches your heart as you read?
- 4) Forgiven people forgive people. If that's true, why do you think it's so challenging for some people to forgive?
- 5) Read Psalm 32 out loud. How has forgiveness changed your life?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?