

# Sermon Series – FORGIVENESS

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Pastor Chris Kouba – United City Church

*Week 1 – March 8, 2026*

## The Question: Can God really forgive me?

What David discovered and expresses in Psalm 32:

*“The Path to freedom isn’t hiding, it’s receiving”*

### Key Scripture

“Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit, there is no deceit.” — Psalm 32:1–2 (ESV)

### Understanding Sin

Psalm 32 highlights four words that describe the human condition:

- **Transgression** – crossing the boundary of God’s commands; rebellion against God.
- **Sin** – missing the mark of God’s perfect standard.
- **Iniquity** – the inner corruption or bent nature that leads us toward sin.
- **Deceit** – self-deception; hiding or minimizing sin instead of being honest before God.

### The Weight of Unconfessed Sin

Psalm 32:3–4 describes the physical, emotional, and spiritual weight of hidden sin. David explains that when he remained silent about his sin, it drained his strength and he felt the heavy conviction of God upon him.

Scripture reminds us that the Lord disciplines those He loves (Hebrews 12:5–6). Conviction is not punishment for destruction, but loving correction intended to bring us back to God.

### Confession Brings Forgiveness

David finally acknowledged his sin before God:

“I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,’ and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.” — Psalm 32:5 (ESV)

Forgiveness begins when we stop hiding and take ownership of our sin before God.

### **Forgiveness Has a Cost**

Forgiveness is never truly free. A price must be paid for sin. In the gospel, that price was ultimately paid through Jesus Christ.

### **Life After Forgiveness**

Psalm 32:6–7 describes the life that follows forgiveness. God becomes our hiding place, our protector, and our source of deliverance.

### **God Is Faithful to Forgive**

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” — 1 John 1:9 (ESV)

Forgiveness is rooted in God’s faithfulness, not our worthiness.

### **Righteousness Comes from God**

Psalm 32:10–11 reminds us that our righteousness does not come from our own effort. It is a gift received through trusting the Lord.

Those who trust in God are surrounded by His steadfast love and can rejoice in the freedom of forgiven hearts.