

Why God Forgives
Psalm 103:1-13

Psalm 103:1-13 reveals the relentless, fatherly compassion of God for His children. In it, David praises the Lord for God's blessings bestowed on His people. He was aware of the special position Israel held among the nations from verses like **Exod. 19:5** and **Deut. 7:6**. According to the New Testament, because you are in Christ, you are a part of God's chosen people—His special possession—and the same benefits that He promised to His Old Testament people now apply to your life and mine.

The first blessing that is clearly uppermost in David's mind is the fact that the Lord "forgives all your iniquity." It is the removal of guilt that clears the spiritual barrier that separates humanity from God, making all subsequent gifts possible.

The Psalm also praises the extensiveness of God's forgiveness of His people. He has removed our transgressions from us "as far as the east is from the west." The Scripture says that when God forgives, He separates our sin that unimaginable distance from us. It's done.

But the most striking and most praiseworthy thing about God's forgiveness is the source of His forgiveness of us. It is that the Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love. His forgiveness stems from His fatherly compassion—His nature prompts His forgiveness.

Remember how the Psalm began? David reminds his own soul to bless the Lord and to forget not His benefits. Why? It is easy for us to lose trust in the extent of God's forgiveness of our sins and lose sight of the promised benefits because, though we are forgiven time and again, it seems it is in our nature to sin. So, we ask, "Why, God, would You keep forgiving me when I sin and sin again?"

His answer would always be the same: "Why should I allow your nature to change mine? So, as long as I'm living, My child you'll be."