

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us.

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15 am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

UPCOMING EVENTS:

PUMPKIN KILLING!

Next Sunday, October 30th 1:30-4:30pm
at Orcutt Hill/Newlove Picnic Grounds.

This free event is open to all!

Pumpkin carving, Pumpkin Pie Eating and Pumpkin Launching,
bounce house and more!
Please bring carving utensils.

BAPTISMS!

Today at 1pm

1371 Solomon Road
Stay for Tritip BBQ Celebration

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, November 12th 8am

All Men are invited to come
here at Element.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

November 12th

9:30-3pm

Come shop for your Holidays and
help support eMoms! Ministry.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

**Do you have a *What in the World?*
question you'd like us to answer?**

**Ask us at: www.ourelement.org/what?
or via this QR Code with your phone:**



WHAT!

— IN THE —
WORLD?

TWO:

WHY CAN'T GOD "JUST FORGIVE?"

— MARK 2:1-12 —

MARK 2:9	HEBREWS 9:22
MARK 2:1-12	ROMANS 3:25-26
JOHN 9:1-2	ISAIAH 53:12
1 JOHN 4:20	1 PETER 3:18
GALATIANS 3:14	1 PETER 2:24
GENESIS 15	

TWO: WHY CAN'T GOD "JUST FORGIVE?" — MARK 2:1-12 —

In Genesis, God creates everything, including man, and lays out what is good for man to see. God then tells the man the consequence of sin, breaking relationship with God: he will die. You sin, you die...simple. In Genesis, God *separates* for the man what is *light and dark, truth and lies*. God makes the distinction between *life and death* for the man. This explanation of what constitutes life and death includes the idea that man is free to live and love God and His creation in any way the man sees as most useful.

What are some ways that you think you know better than God in your life?

When man decides to go his own way in the garden, without God, and do what he *feels* is right, he sins. In Genesis 3 you see that as soon as the man and woman sin, they tragically died (just as God promised). Their sin made them lose their innocence and their connection with each other and God; thus they became separated, and they died. To this day, sin runs rampant in our lives and causes us to be separated from others, our Creator, and eventually our own flesh.

What are some ways sin has caused division in some of the relationships in your life?

How can God restore us to the place of understanding and knowing His definition of good? In His holiness, God makes a promise in Genesis 3:15 that He would provide Himself as a sacrifice to remove man's sin and restore relationship. We see the first sacrifice when God slaughters an animal to clothe Adam and Eve's shame. We can oftentimes gloss over this, but it is devastating—blood is spilled as the cost of man's sin. The fact that God made this sacrifice Himself shows how important and necessary it was. Sinful people cannot dwell with a holy God. Eventually, this leads to the whole Old Testament sacrificial system, which ultimately points towards the final sacrifice for our sin, Jesus.

When you think of the Old Testament system of sacrifice, what thoughts does it bring to mind?

Can you see any benefit of the Old Testament system?

The writer of Hebrews sums up the entire Old Testament by saying in Hebrews 9:22, "*Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.*" So God Himself provides Jesus, His son, at the appointed time to be the One that dies for us, in our place, as our substitution. God could not just wink at sin and say it was no big deal, God is holy, just, right, and true. If He brushed sin off, He would cease to be God. Because He defined the consequence of sin as death, He had to follow through because His words are true. This is why blood, which is related to life, is required for the sin we commit.

Read Mark 2:1-12.

What stands out to you in how Jesus forgives this man?

What would you have thought if you were in the crowd?

The problem is that we could never pay for our own sin, because our own lives, our blood, are tainted because of our sin. What is taught through Scripture is clear - either you *die*, forever separated from God, or you *trust* in the provision of God through His Son, who has died for you. Your death for His life, your sin for His righteousness—Martin Luther referred to this as The Great Exchange.

How hard is it too comes to grips with the fact that we are not good enough to pay for our own debt of sin?

Do you think this is why many people think "good people" go to heaven?

Why did Jesus have to die? Because we are so evil, and the cost of sin is death. Why *DID* Jesus die? Because He is that good. He is the only hope we have ever had. Our God has sought us and bought us with Himself. We don't live in despair because of what it cost Him; we live new lives of joy because He has first loved us and given us a reason for great joy.

How can you show others the great joy to others of what forgiveness of sins truly mean?

Is there anyone to whom you need to model this forgiveness too?