

For Jesus (Mark 2:1-12) the <u>power</u> to heal proved <u>authority</u> to forgive which proved <u>identity</u> as GOD.

<u>"FORGIVE"</u>

a) cover

b) cancel

c) turn **loose** or send **away**

We have <u>authority</u> to <u>declare</u> that an individual is bound in sin or loosed from sin.

based on:

- a) God's Word... **promises** and **warnings**
- b) Human observation... a sinner has <u>met</u> or <u>refused</u> God's conditions/terms

A statement of "binding or loosing" does not <u>cause/create</u> God's forgiveness, but simply declares what (we perceive) God has already done. [grammar = past, completed action]

We judge on the basis of <u>external</u> words and actions. Likewise, we declare God's forgiveness based on God's <u>promises</u> and our <u>perceptions</u> of repentance from the sinner.

Only God knows the heart; therefore, only God can truly know whether inner motive matches outward profession.

This authority (to speak on God's behalf) was not given <u>uniquely</u> to the twelve disciples or <u>passed down</u> from them. Every Christian has the right to declare/pronounce the <u>truth</u> of God's Word.

REPENTANCE > <u>affirm</u> God's promise, <u>assure</u> the individual

NO REPENTANCE > <u>pronounce</u> God's punishment, <u>warn</u> the individual

Ultimately, all sin is a violation/offense against God; therefore, only God can/does forgive sin against himself.

When sin involves offense/injury against an individual, that individual can/must also offer **forgiveness** and **reconciliation** to the sinner.

(Eph. 4:32)

