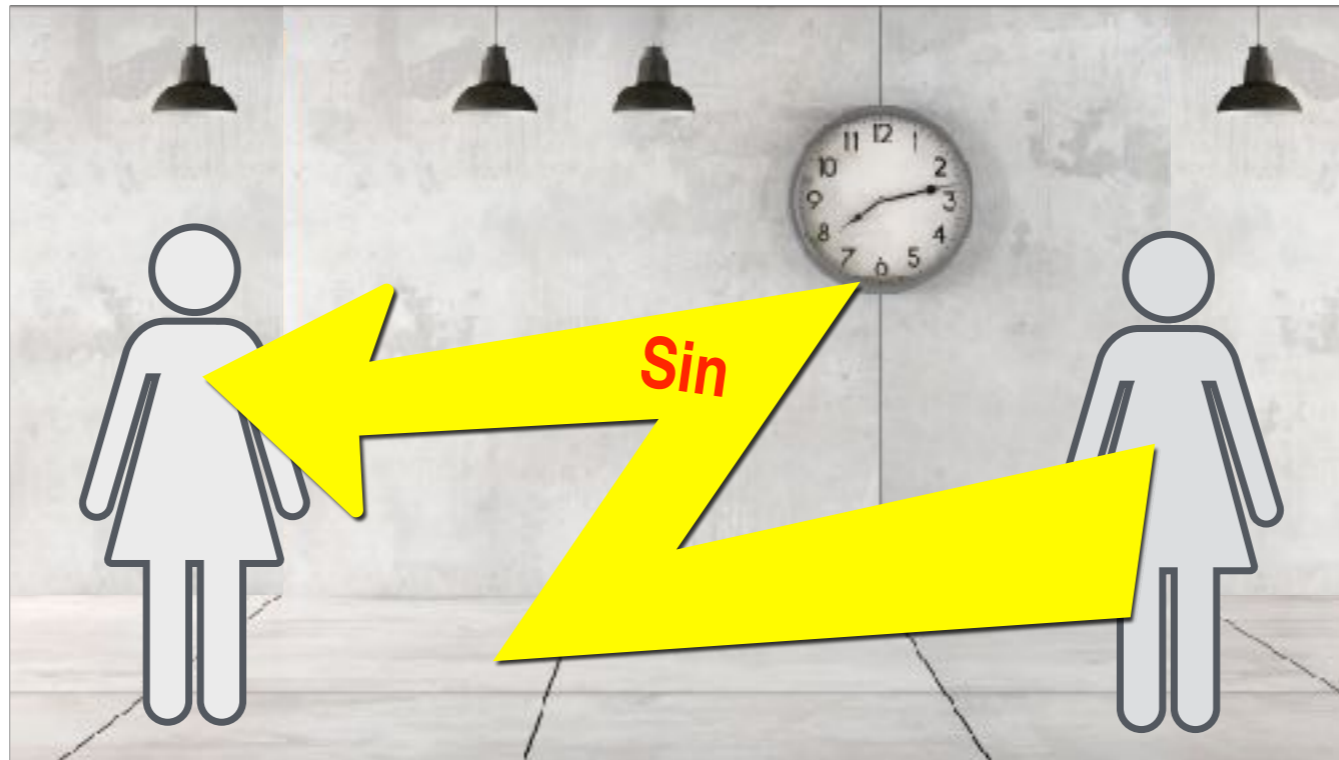




- Does God smile when he forgives me?



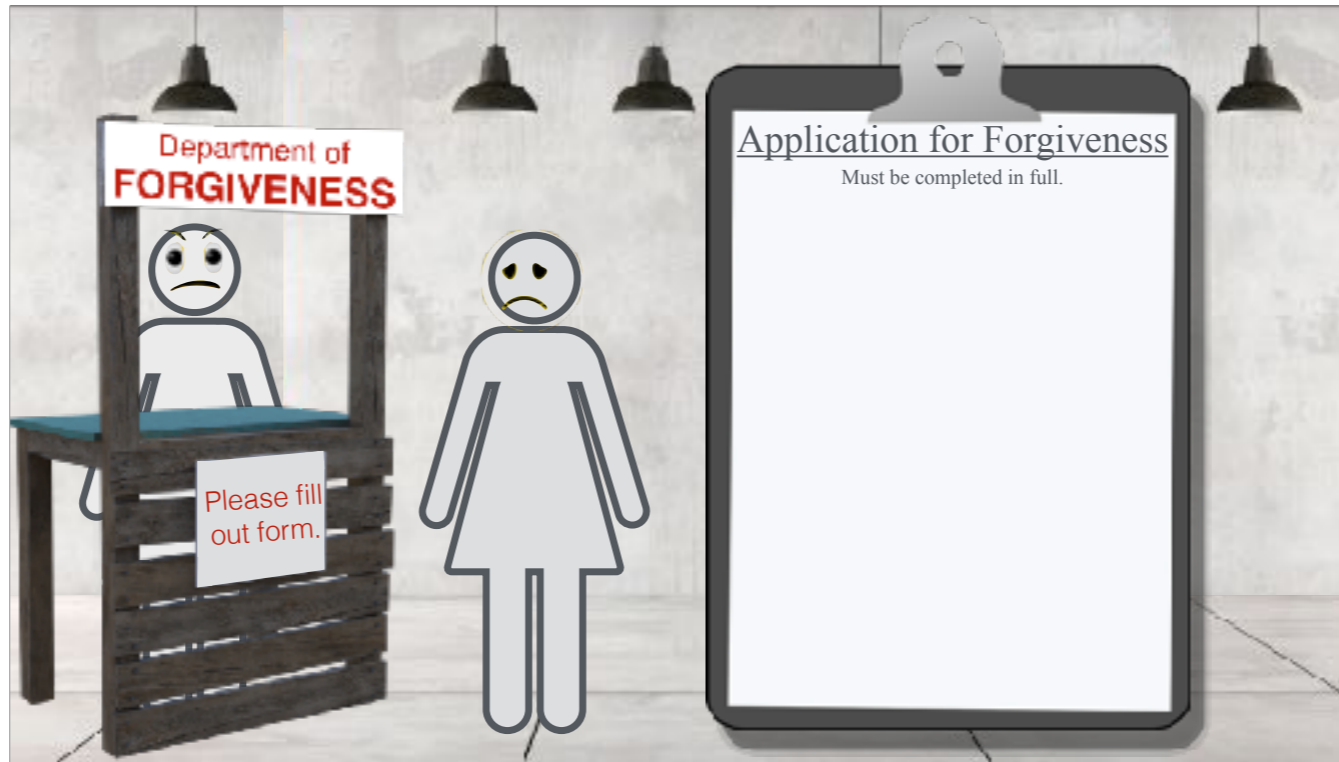
- Let's suppose that a sin is committed.
- Worldly reaction is predictable:
 - anger
 - frustration (how many times?)
 - disappointment (putting on a good face)



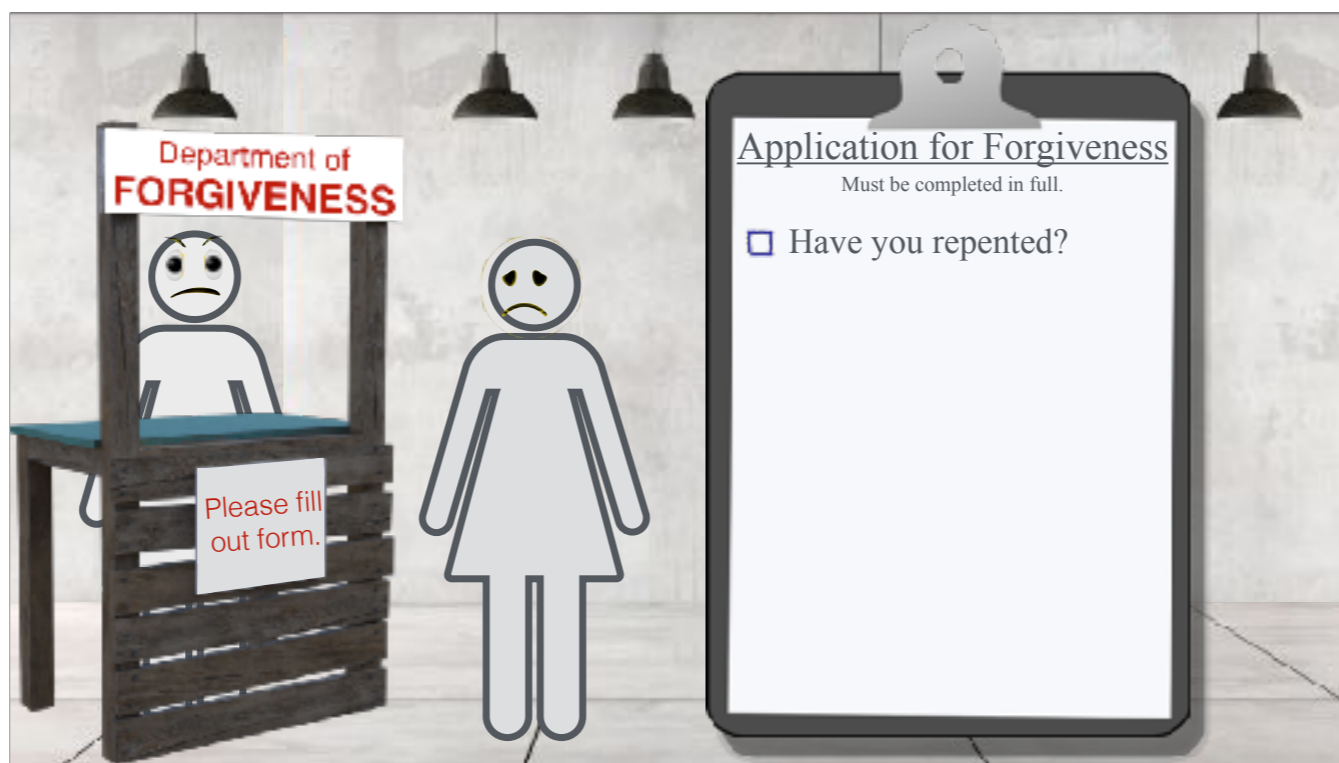
- Let's suppose that the one who sinned comes to us seeking forgiveness.
- What is a common, worldly, human reaction?
 - It depends, but



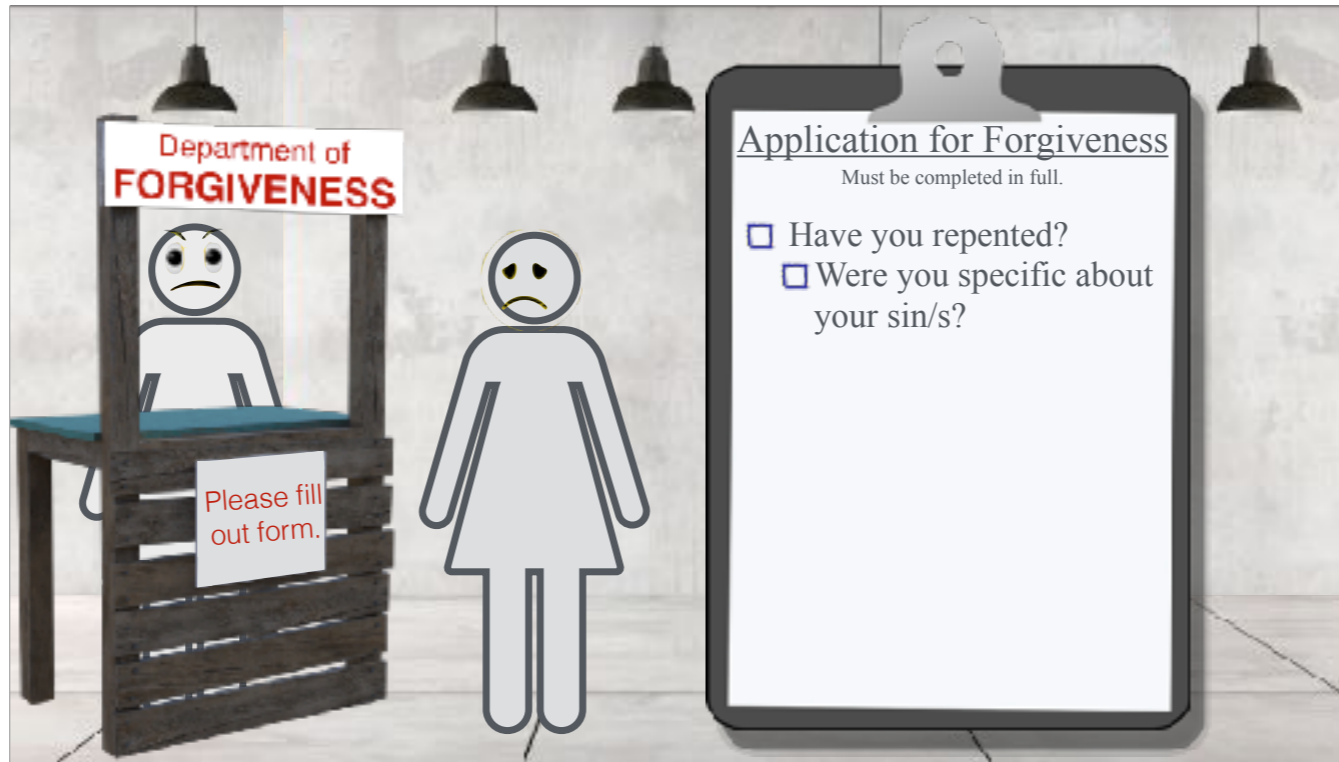
- Some tend to go immediately into “department of forgiveness” mode...
- A checklist of things that must be done by the sinner before forgiveness can be granted.
 - Almost as if we are requiring the sinner to appease our wrath.
- Do you tend to think of forgiveness as a “mechanical” process? Or “doctrinal” process?
 - Often we do. But God reminds us that forgiveness is a matter of our heart and our character.



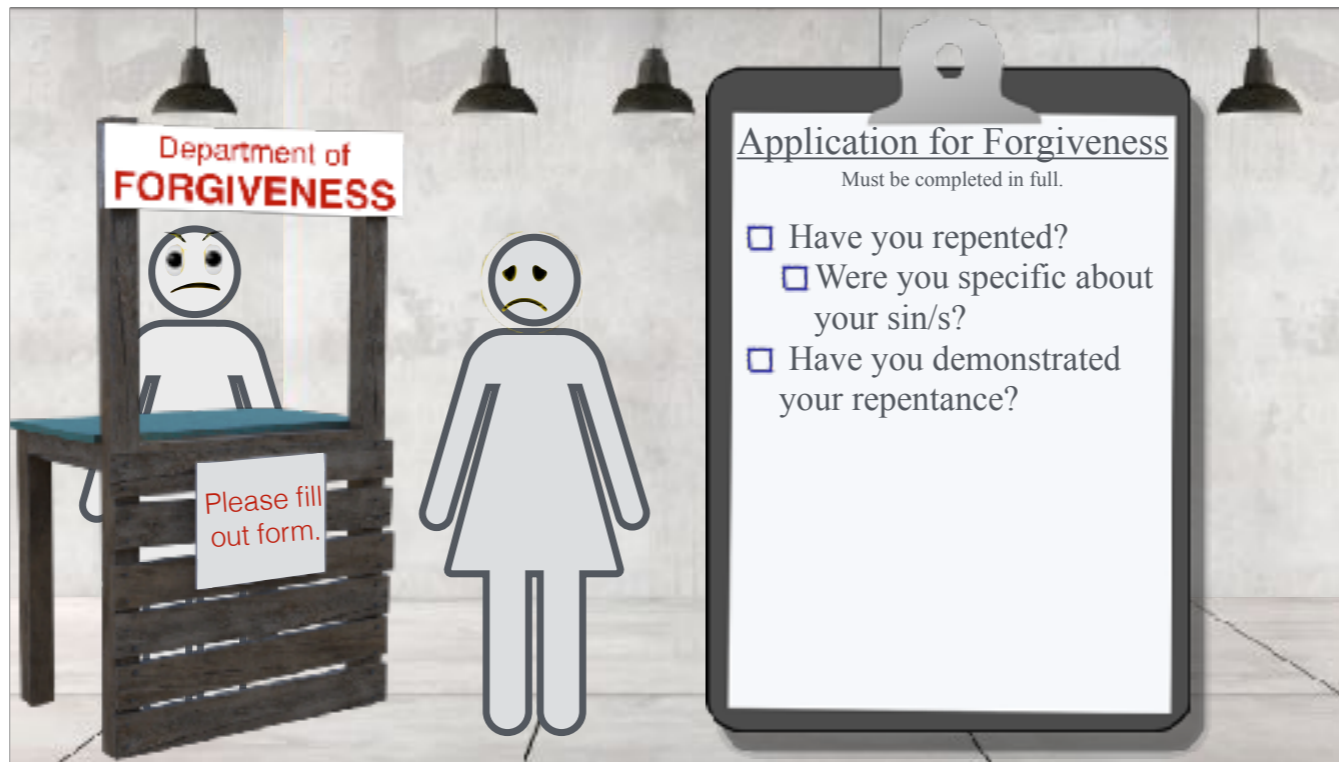
- Some one sins against me.
 - Now they must work to earn my forgiveness.



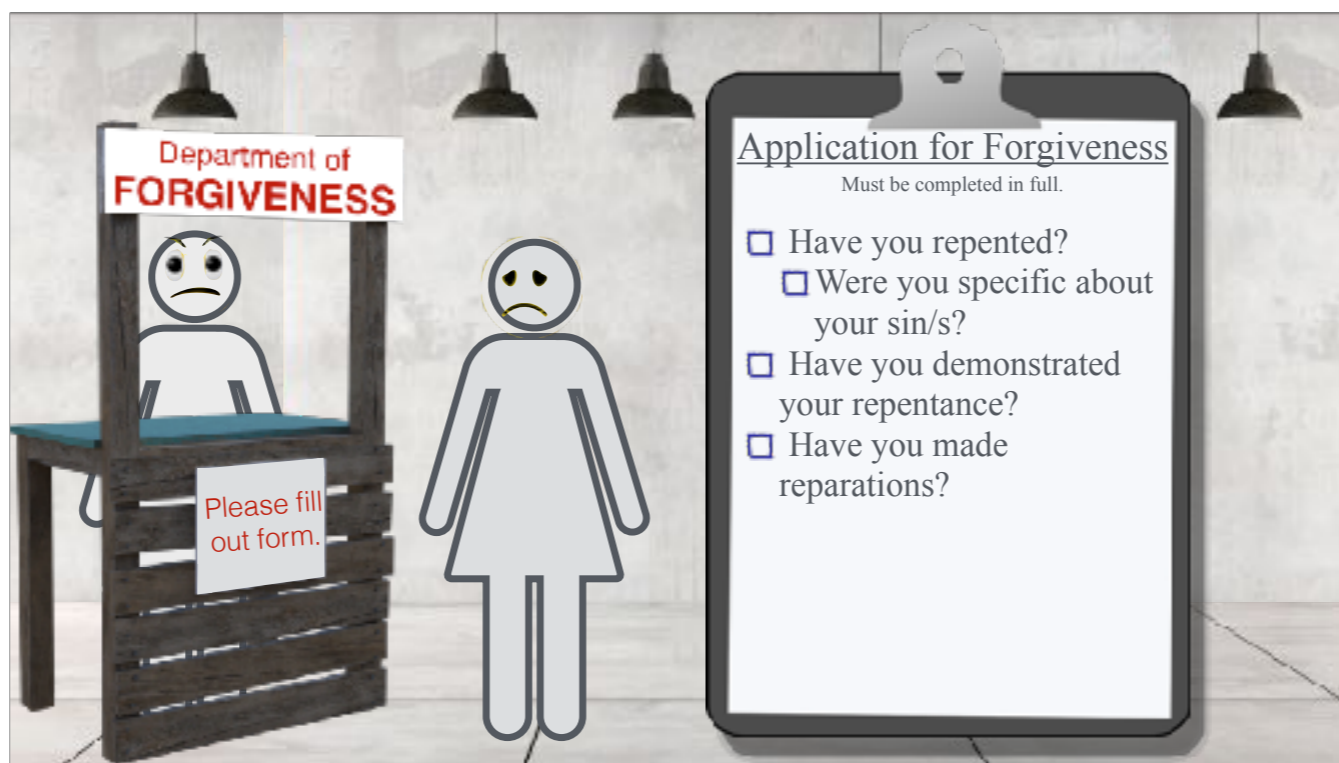
- They must repent.
 - Sometimes, contrary to scriptures, we don't talk to them nor try to reconcile (Matthew 18:15-20)
 - Matthew 18:15: "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother."



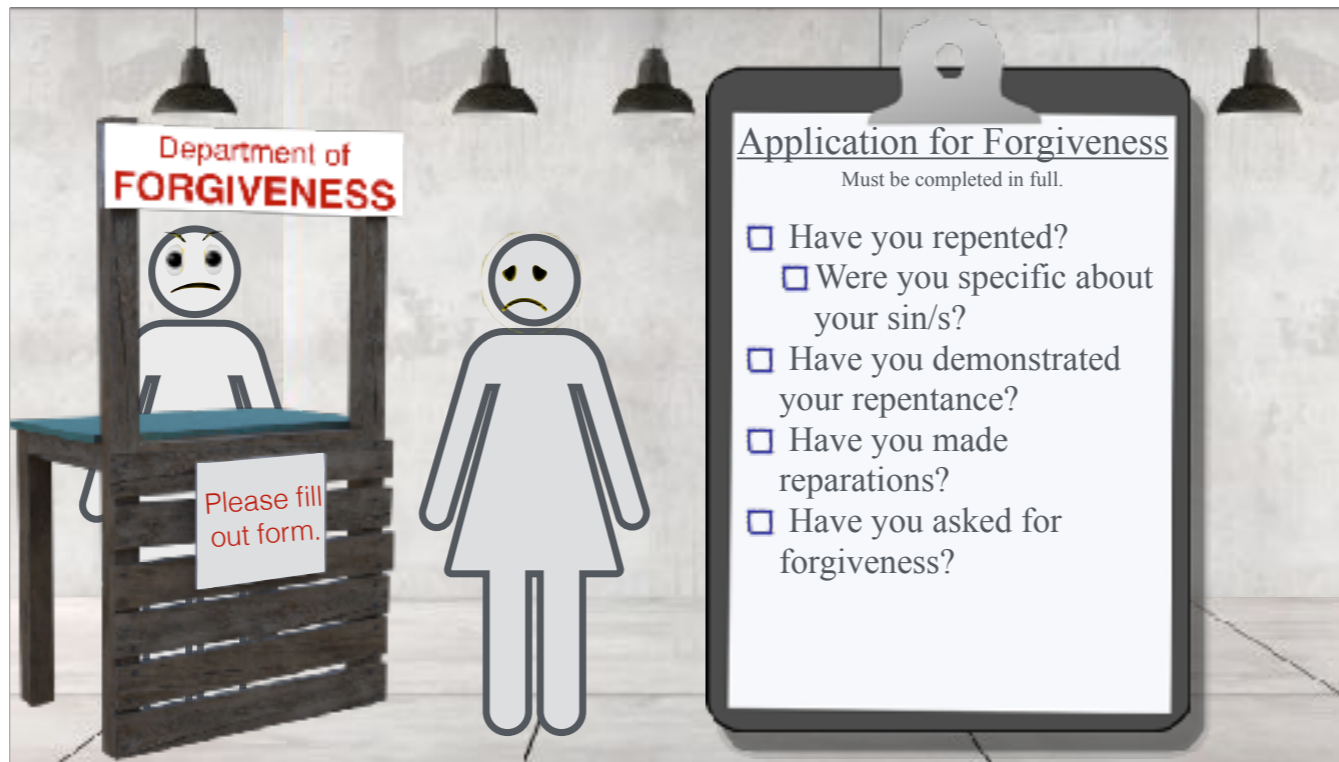
- Not only must they repent, but they must be clear and specific about what they have done.



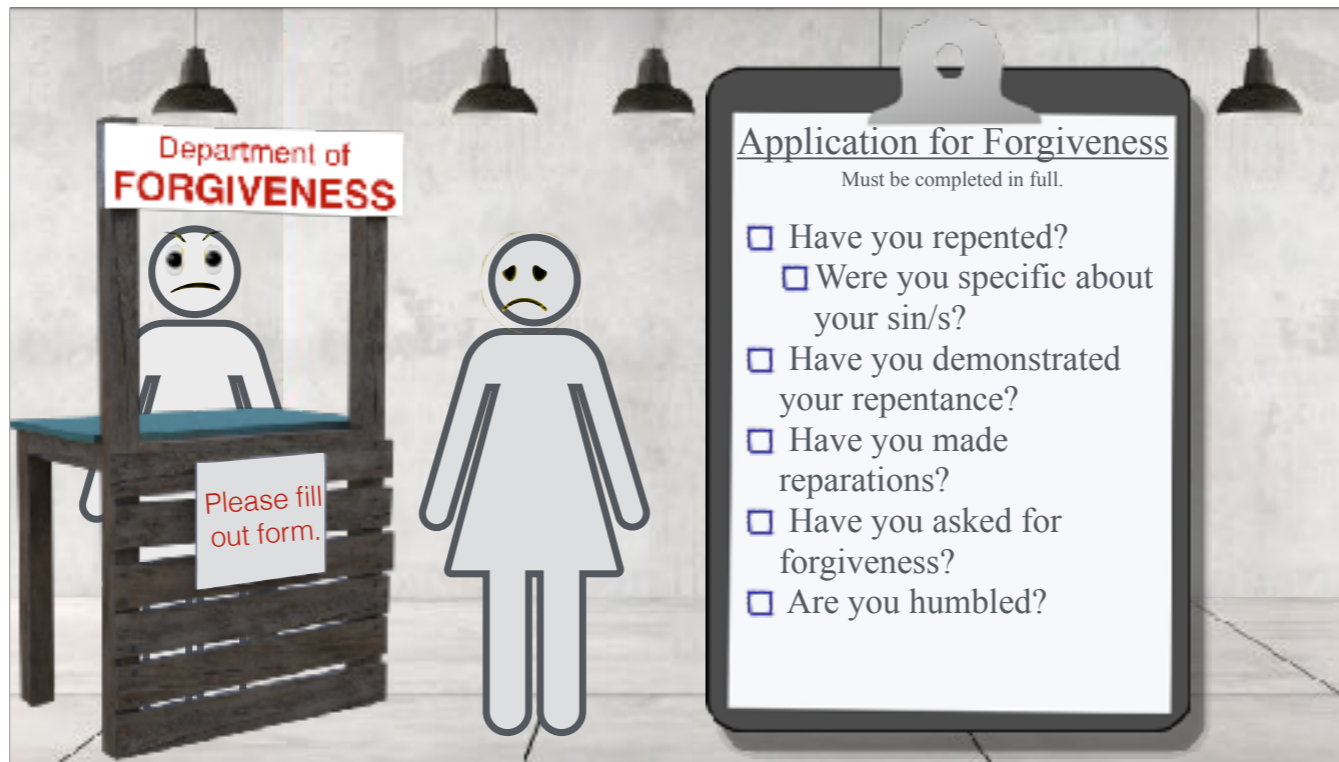
- Their repentance must be clearly demonstrated.
 - Must see the sorrow.
 - Must see the changes being made.
 - All this must be to my satisfaction.



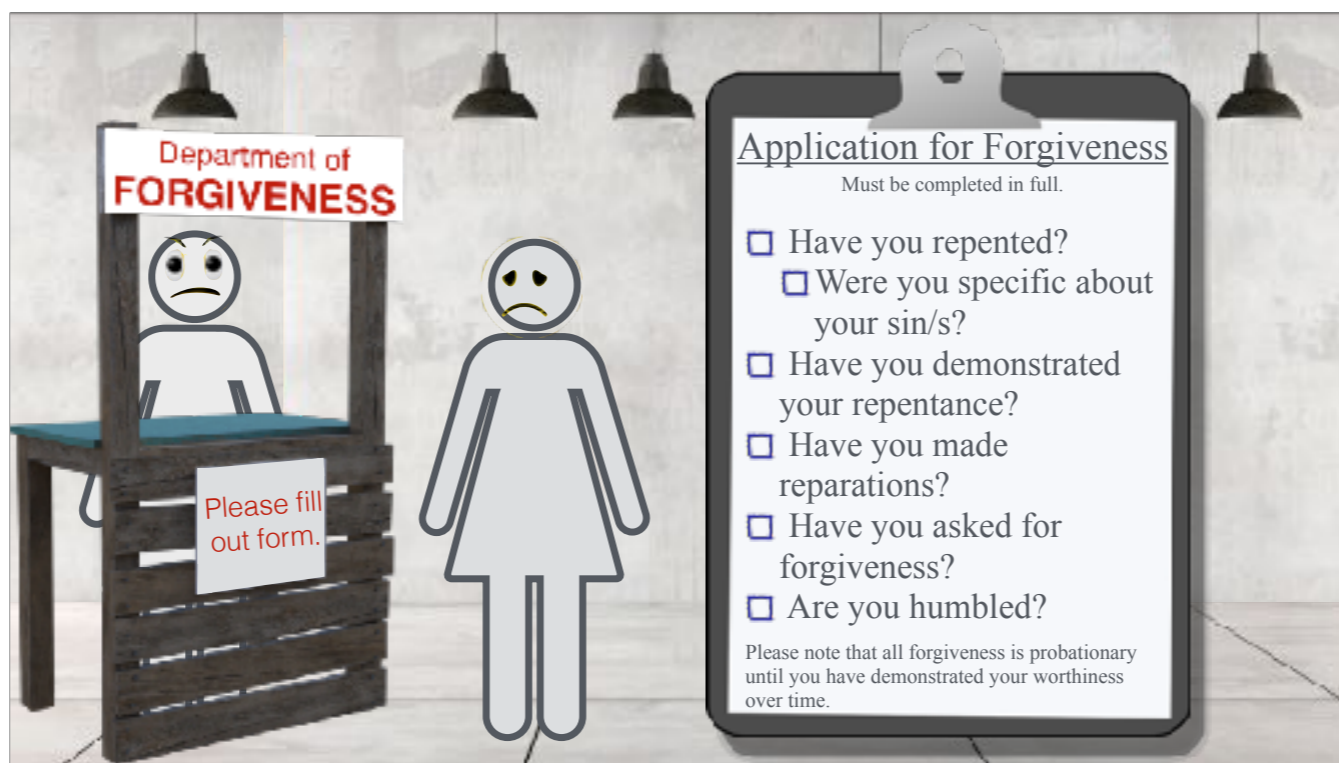
- Have you made reparations?
 - Like Zacchaeus.
 - What have you done for me to payback for your sin?



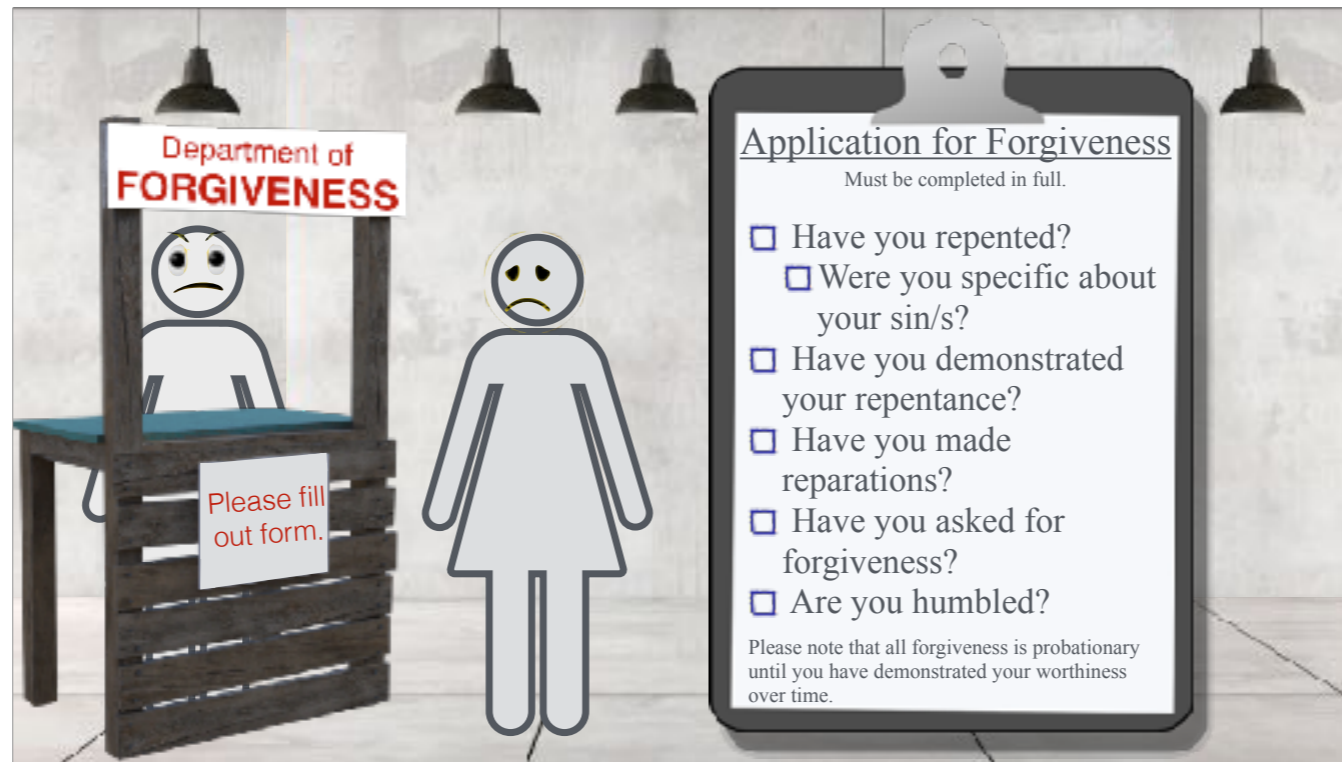
- Have you asked for forgiveness?
 - Ask nicely!



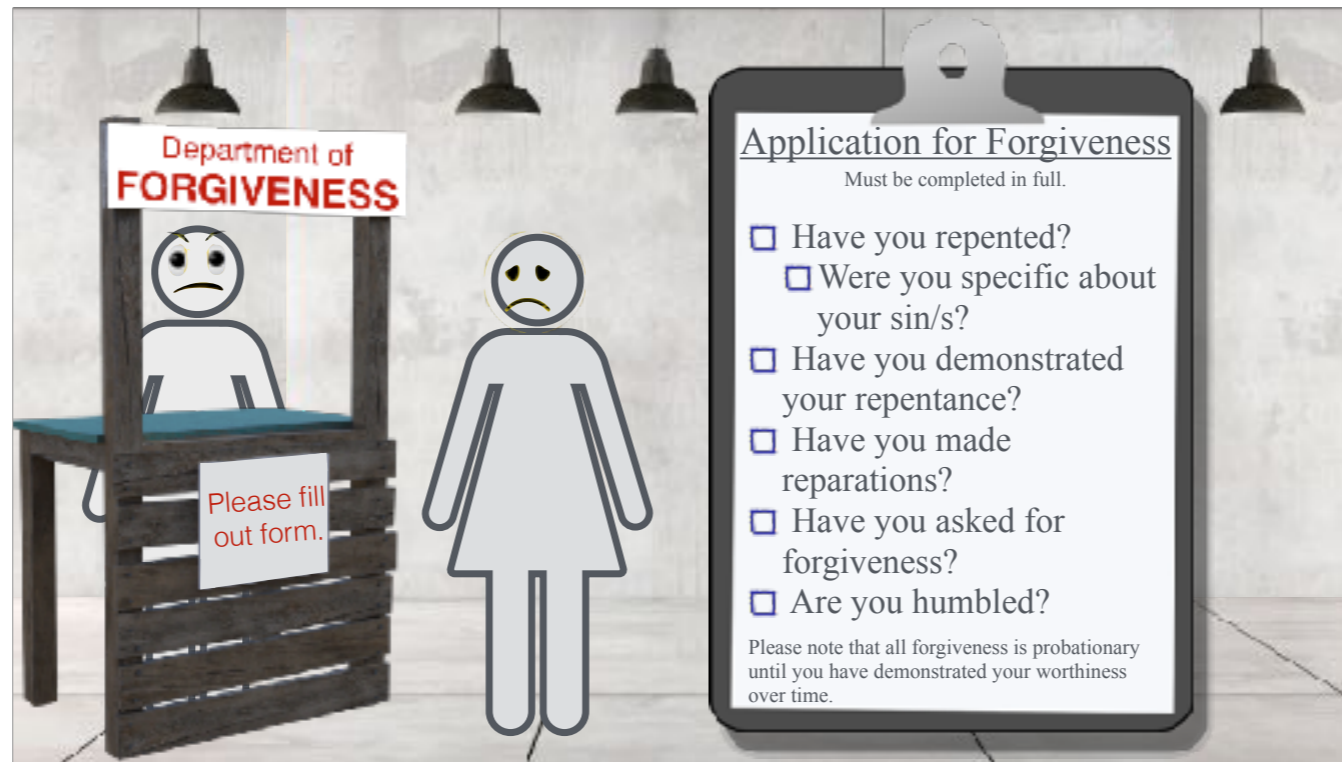
- Are you humbled?
 - Know you've done wrong.
 - Never do it again.



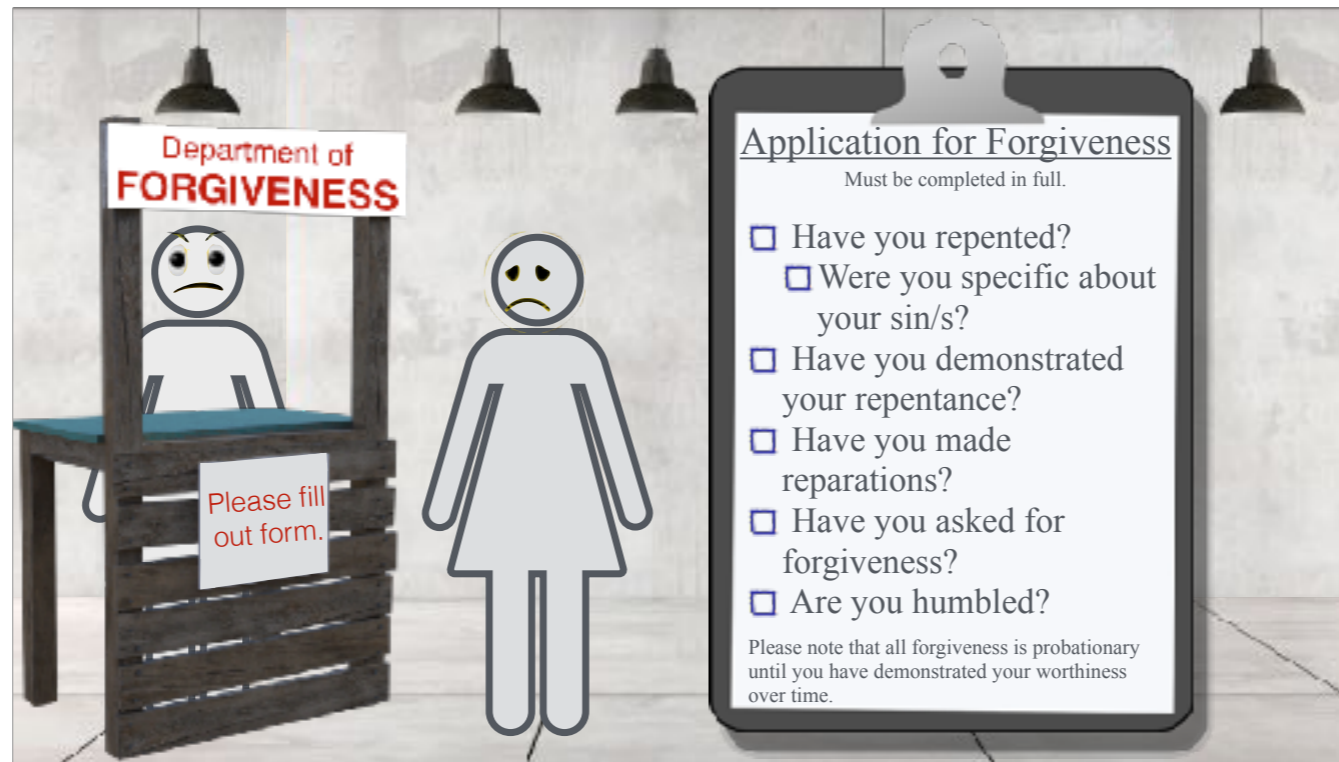
- Forgiveness is probationary.
 - You will remain under our watchful eye for any slips.



- I know that this is a nasty list.
 - And probably a little hyperbolic
- But there are often dangerous attitudes hidden in our hearts.



- I'm not saying that some of these are not "scriptural" in some sense.
- I'm wanting us to look at the attitude behind seeing forgiveness as just a judicial process.
 - Am I seeking some sense of "justice" more than wanting to forgive?
 - The one who has done the wrong must be the one who fixes what is broken.



- Too often, when I am sinned against, I will tend to focus on what the other person must do,
 - while neglecting to do what God has both commanded and demonstrated in forgiving me.
- I'm wanting us to see that forgiveness is very much about having a holy character (myself) and desiring to mend a broken relationship.

A king who wished to settle accounts with his servants

pity



Have patience
with me, and I
will pay you
everything.

Matthew 18:27

- Matthew 18:27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.
- Pity
 - Thayer: to be moved as to one's bowels, hence to be moved with compassion, have compassion (for the bowels were thought to be the seat of love and pity)
 - (CWSB Dictionary) To feel deeply or viscerally, to yearn, have compassion, pity.

A king who wished to settle accounts with his servants

pity → released & forgiven



Have patience
with me, and I
will pay you
everything.

Matthew 18:27

- (MED) This verb carries the idea of being moved in the inner parts of the body.
 - The ancients thought of the inward parts of the body (i.e., the entrails) as being the seat of emotions.
 - In English we usually refer to the “heart,” but we also talk of a person having “visceral” feelings;
 - note how true compassion can affect us in the pit of our stomachs.

A king who wished to settle accounts with his servants

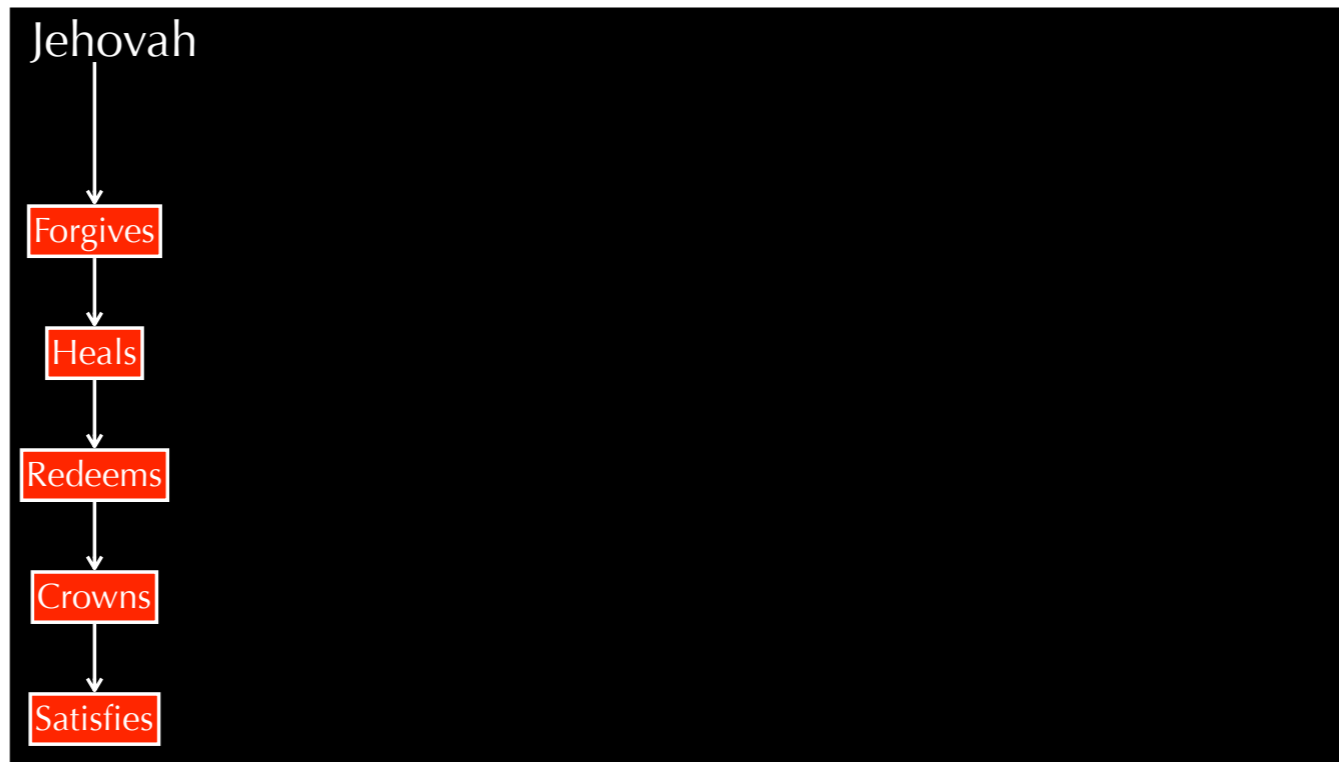
pity → released & forgiven



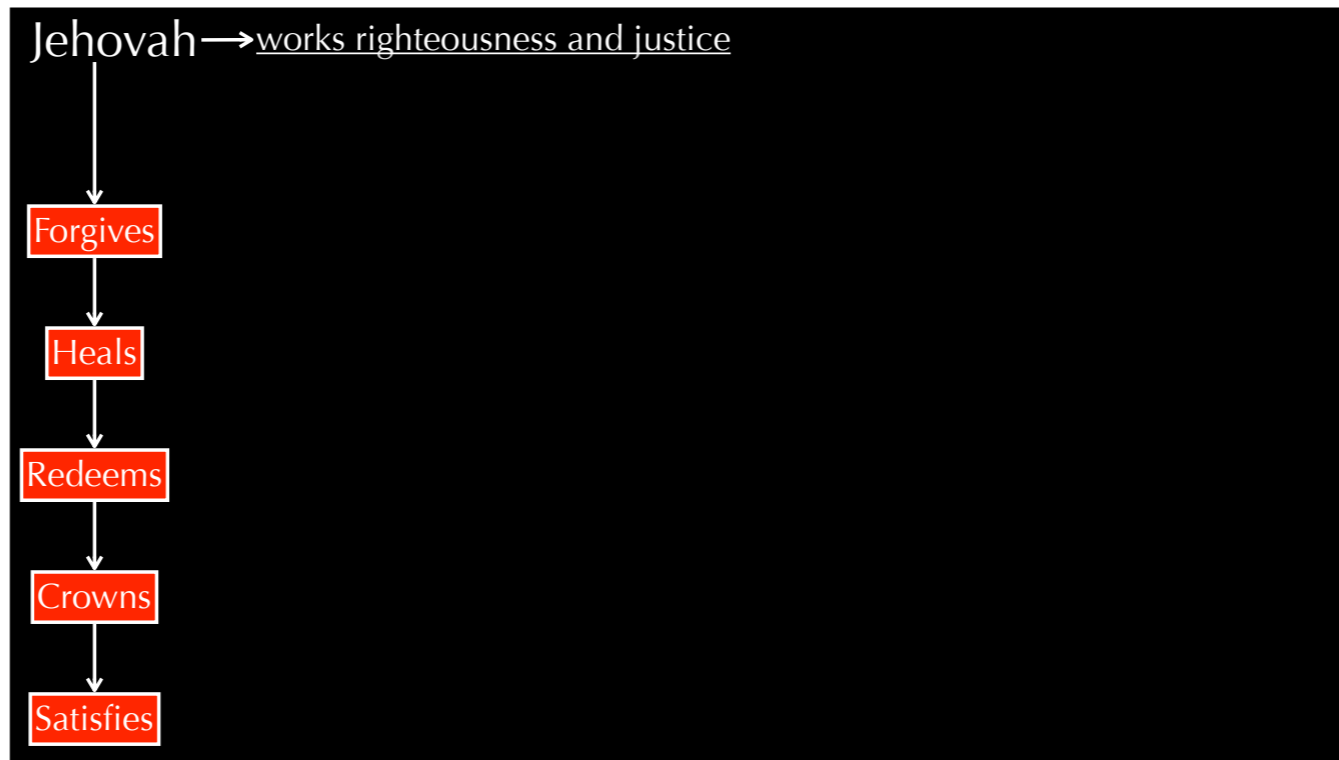
Have patience
with me, and I
will pay you
everything.

Matthew 18:27

- (MED) *splanchnizomai* can move beyond compassion into the realm of mercy or pity. The verb is used in this fashion in three parables:
 - the initial **pity of the master on the unjust servant** (Mt. 18:27),
 - the **Samaritan on the injured man** (Lk. 10:33),
 - and the **father on the returning prodigal son** 15:20).



- Forgiveness is not just a judicial process, it's primarily repairing a broken relationship.
- When our Father forgives, he is not willing to leave us as we are.



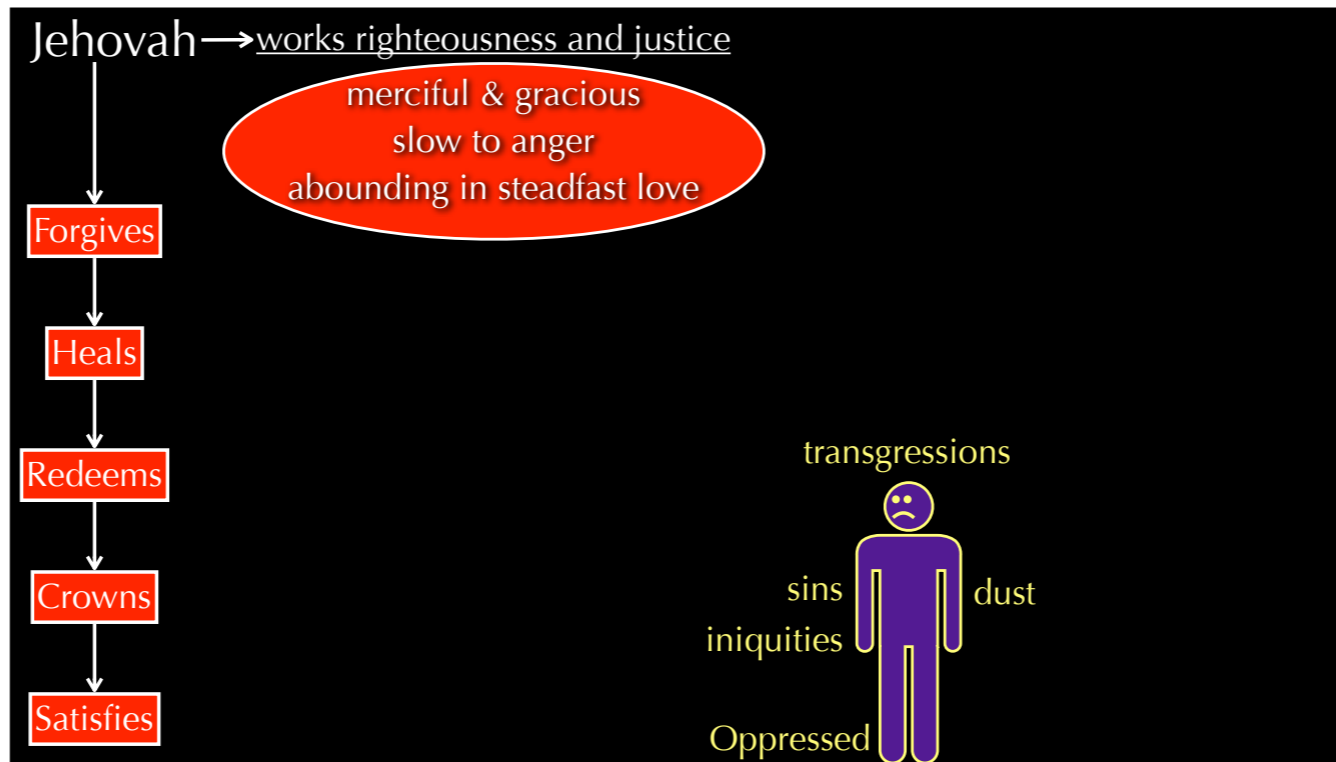
- Psalms 103:6: The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.
- Note: works, compare with “benefits” (2)



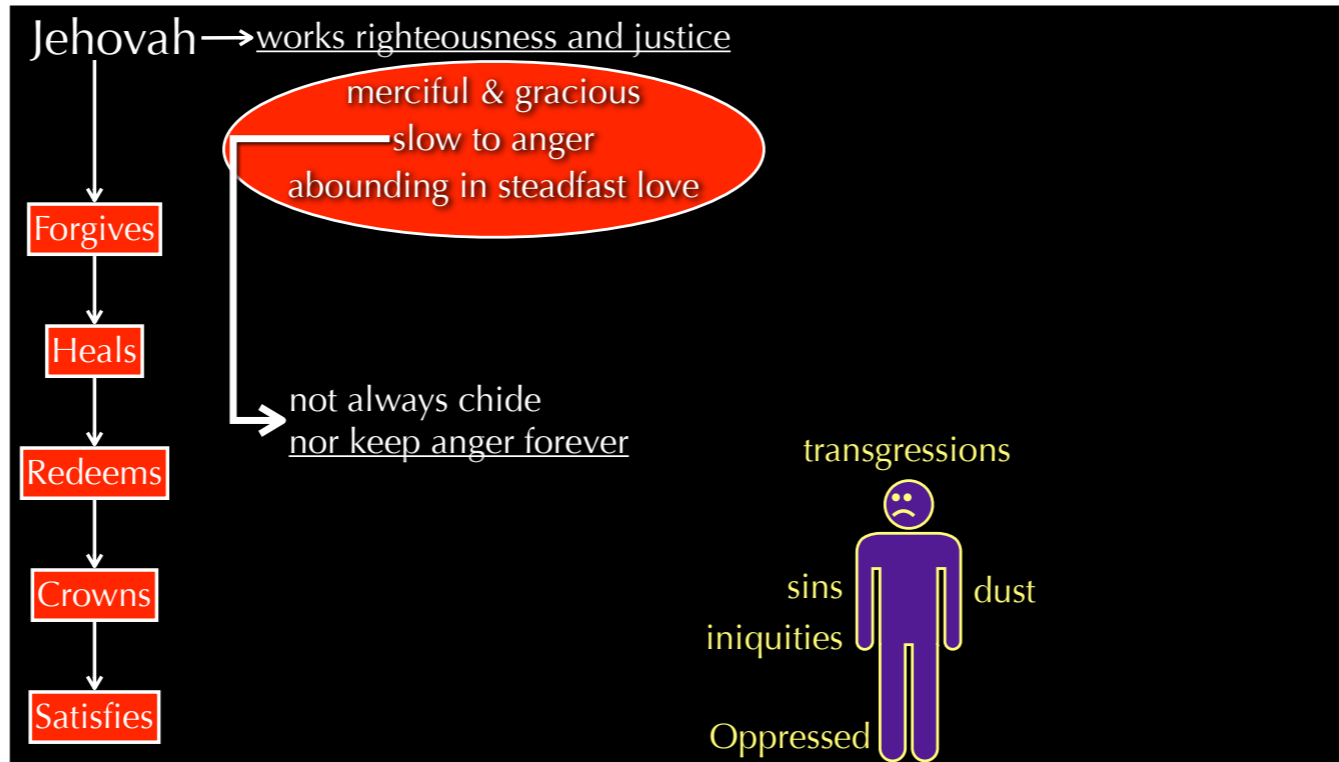
- Psalms 103:6: The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.



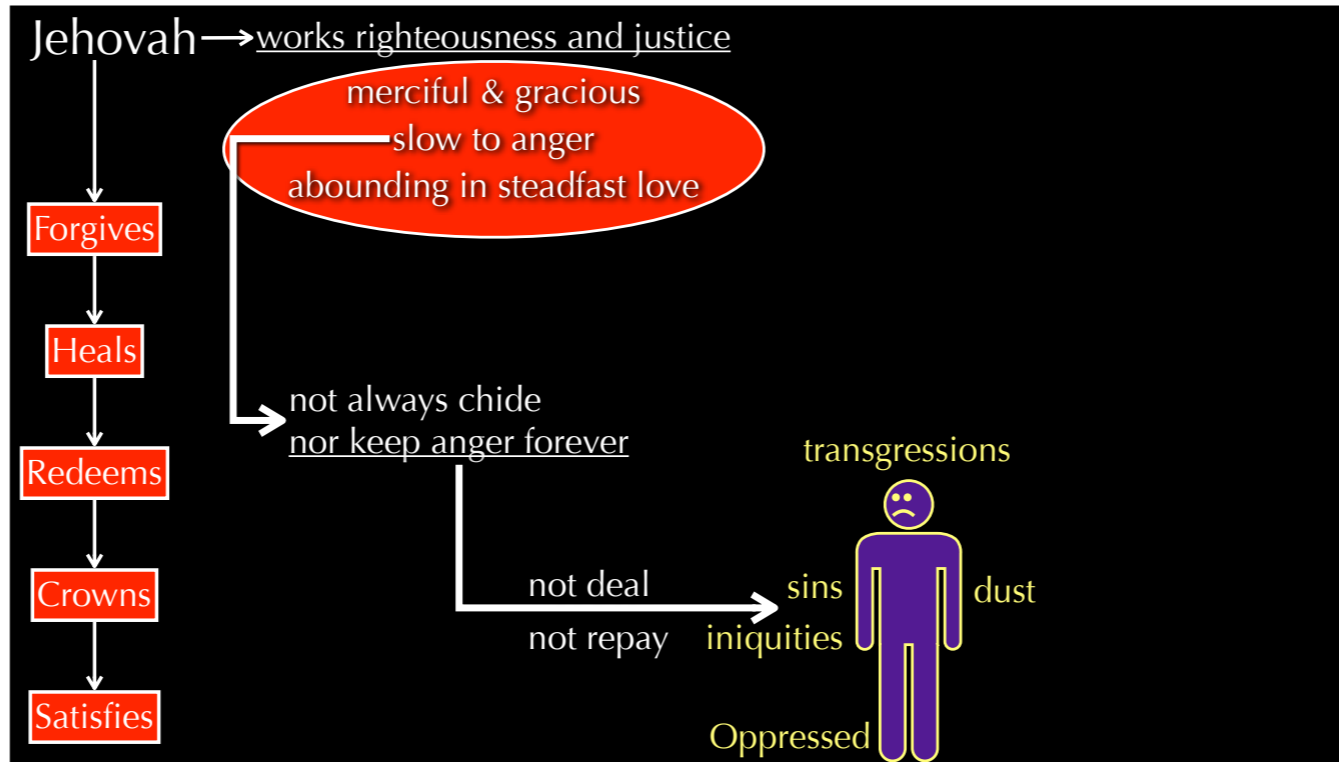
- Psalms 103:8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
 - In part how Jehovah described himself to Moses in Exodus
- Exodus 34:6-7 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.”
- God’s works are rooted in his character.
 - Can’t be separated.



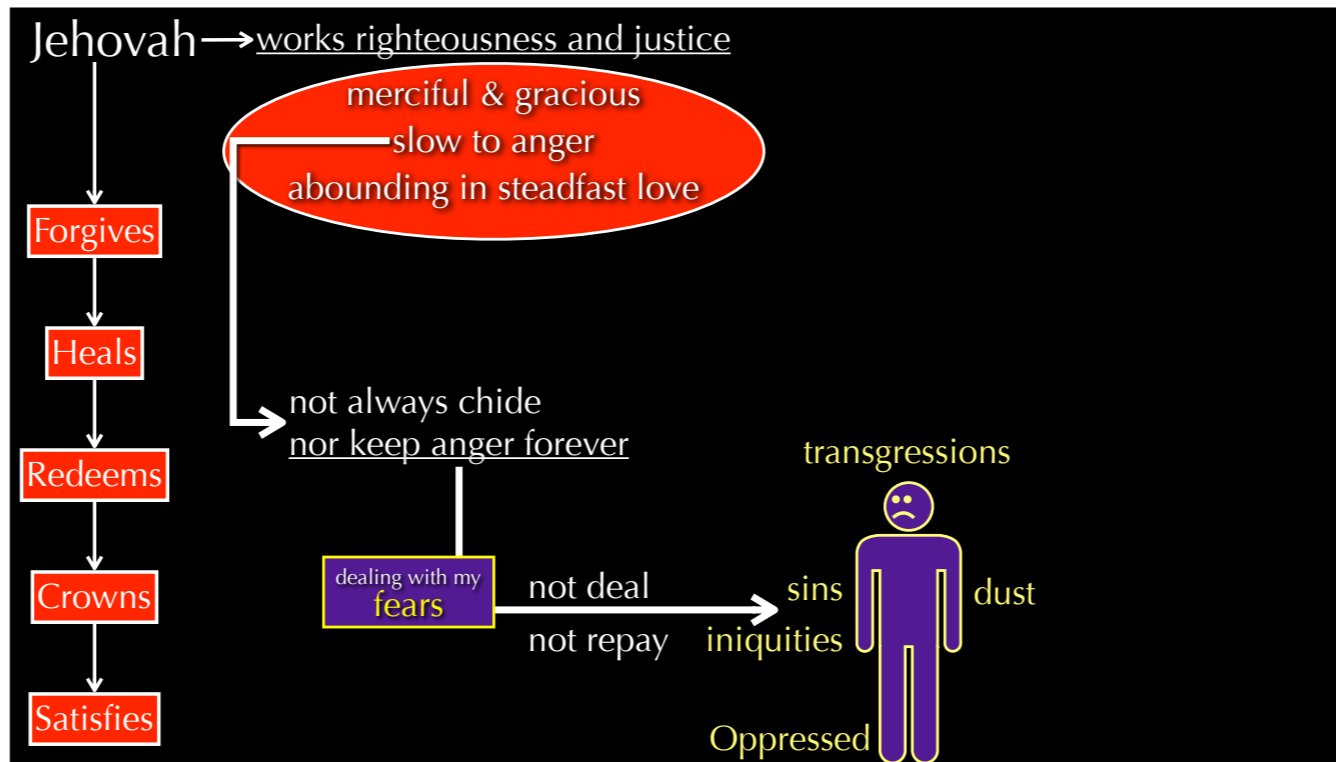
- In contrast: what is man?
- 10 He does not deal with us according to our **sins**, nor repay us according to our **iniquities**.
- 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our **transgressions** from us.
- 14 For he knows our **frame**; he remembers that we are **dust**.
- 15-16 As for man, his **days are like grass**; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.



- 9 He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.

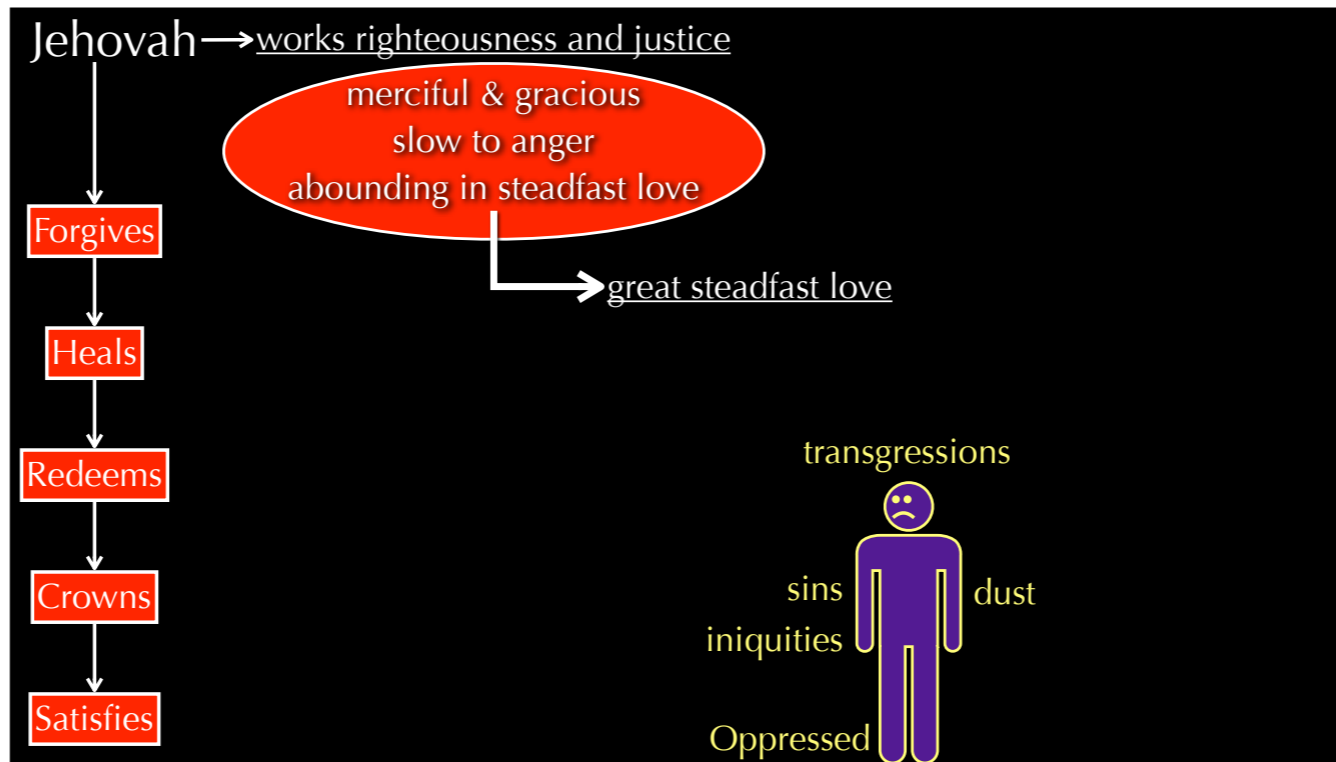


- 10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

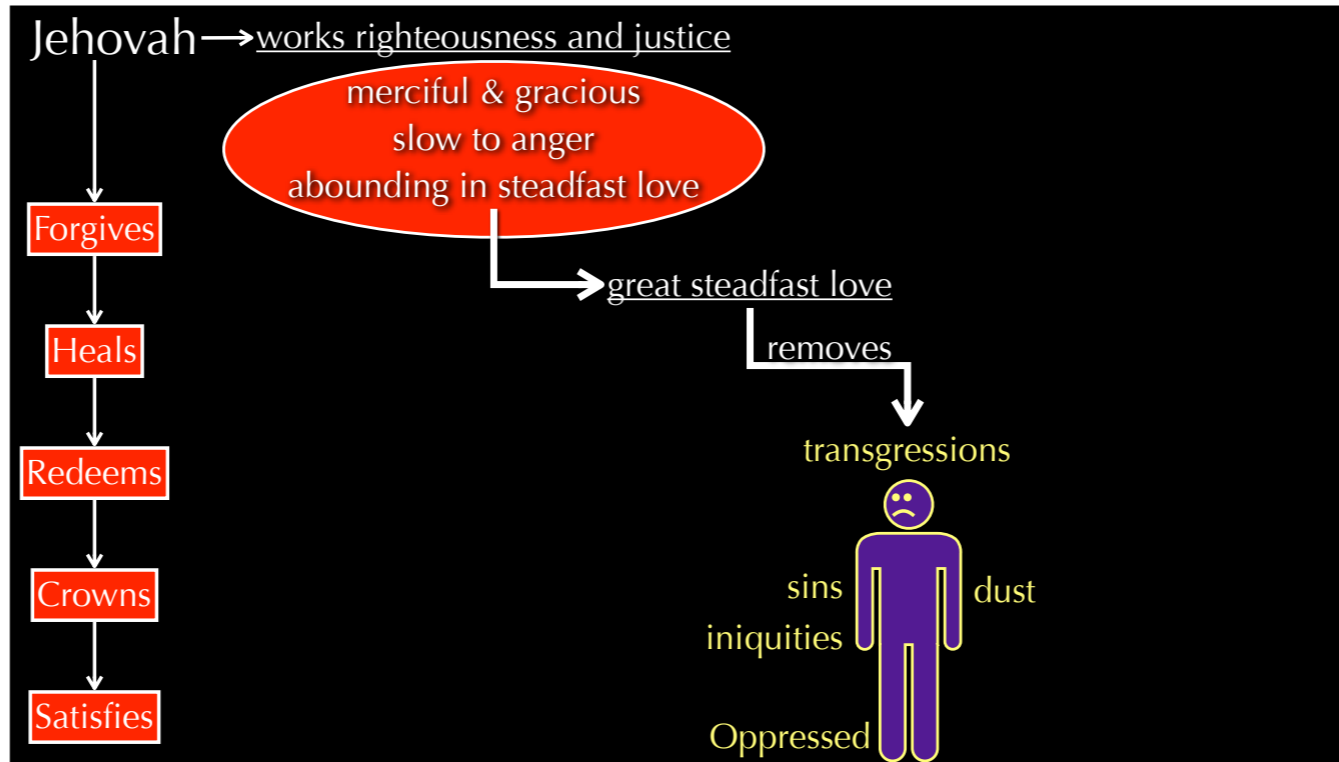


- Dealing with My Fears

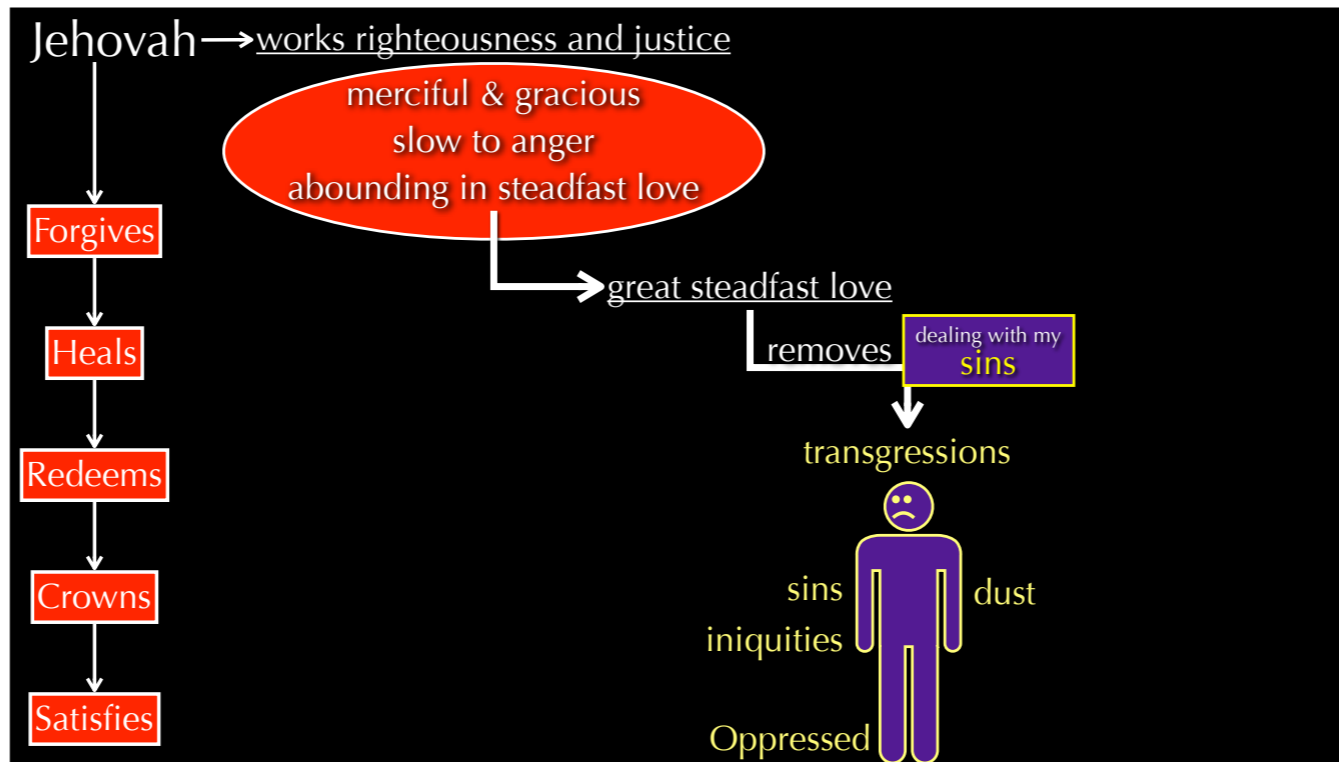
- When we have done things wrong, we often fear the reaction of others, especially those in authority over us.
 - man responds with anger; seeking justice; and vengeance.
- Also true with God, who makes it clear that violation of His law is sin and must be punished.
- Adam and Eve hid from God when they sinned, fearing death.
 - Why didn't they just talk to him? We thought you'd be angry with us.
- We fear justice and punishment, getting what we deserve, knowing we don't deserve forgiveness.
- We receive mercy and grace!



- 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so **great** is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
 - The heavens are enormous! Distances so vast we struggle to think of them.
 - Light travels at about 186,000 miles/second in a vacuum.
 - Light from the sun 93 million miles away takes 8 minutes to reach us.
 - If we could travel at the speed of light, it would take us over 4 years to reach the nearest star (not the sun).
- Abounding! Great!

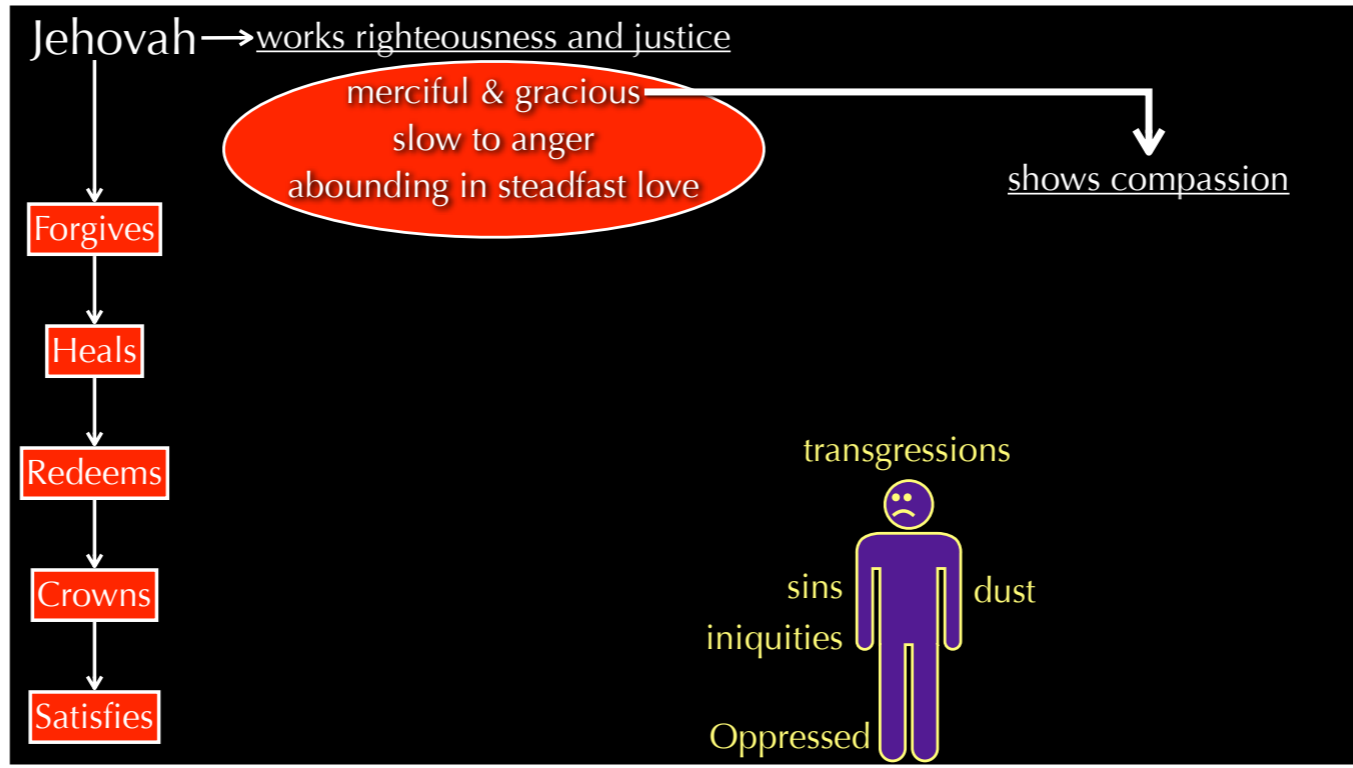


- 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
 - complete separation; opposites



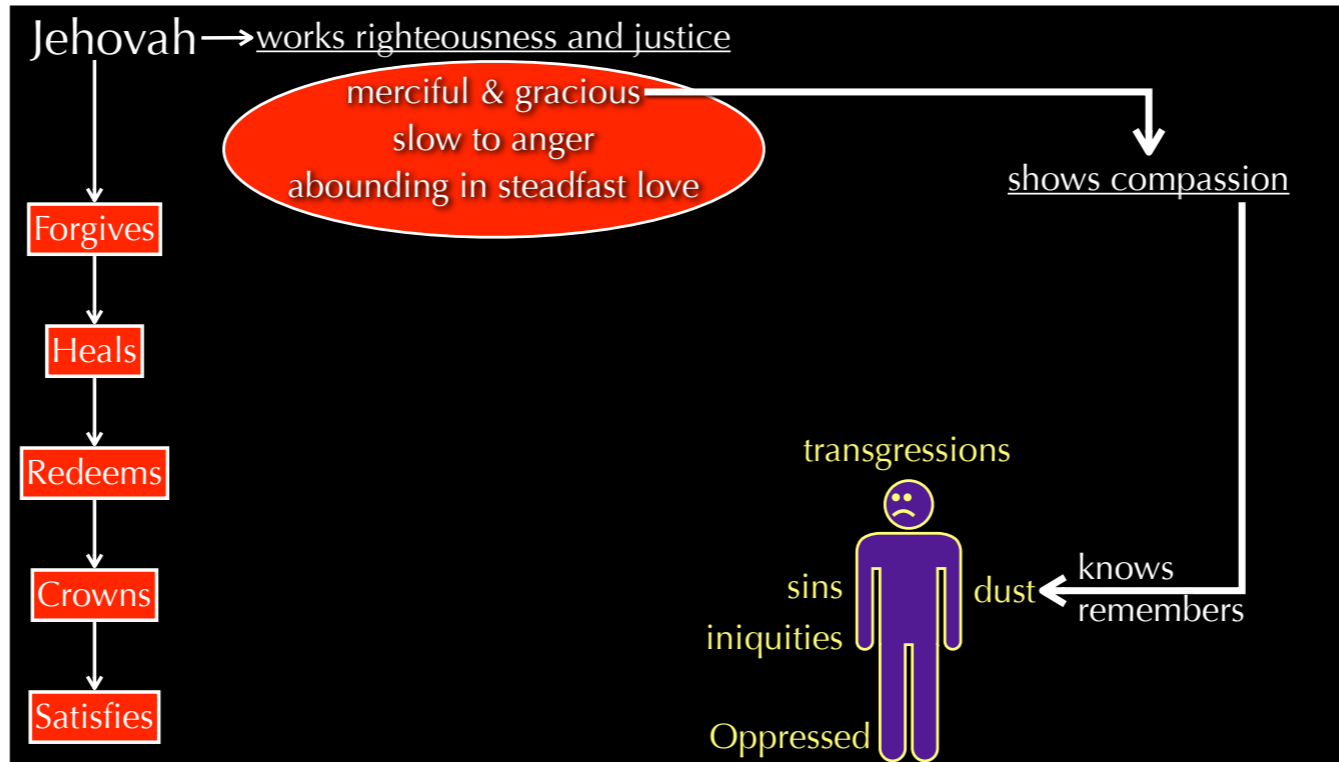
- Dealing with my Sins

- Heavens and earth; east and west
- Man's way of dealing with sins is to constantly remind of our failures, expect them to return.
- God's way of love assures us that our sin is completely removed.
 - This assurance allows us to be free from guilt and burden of sin.

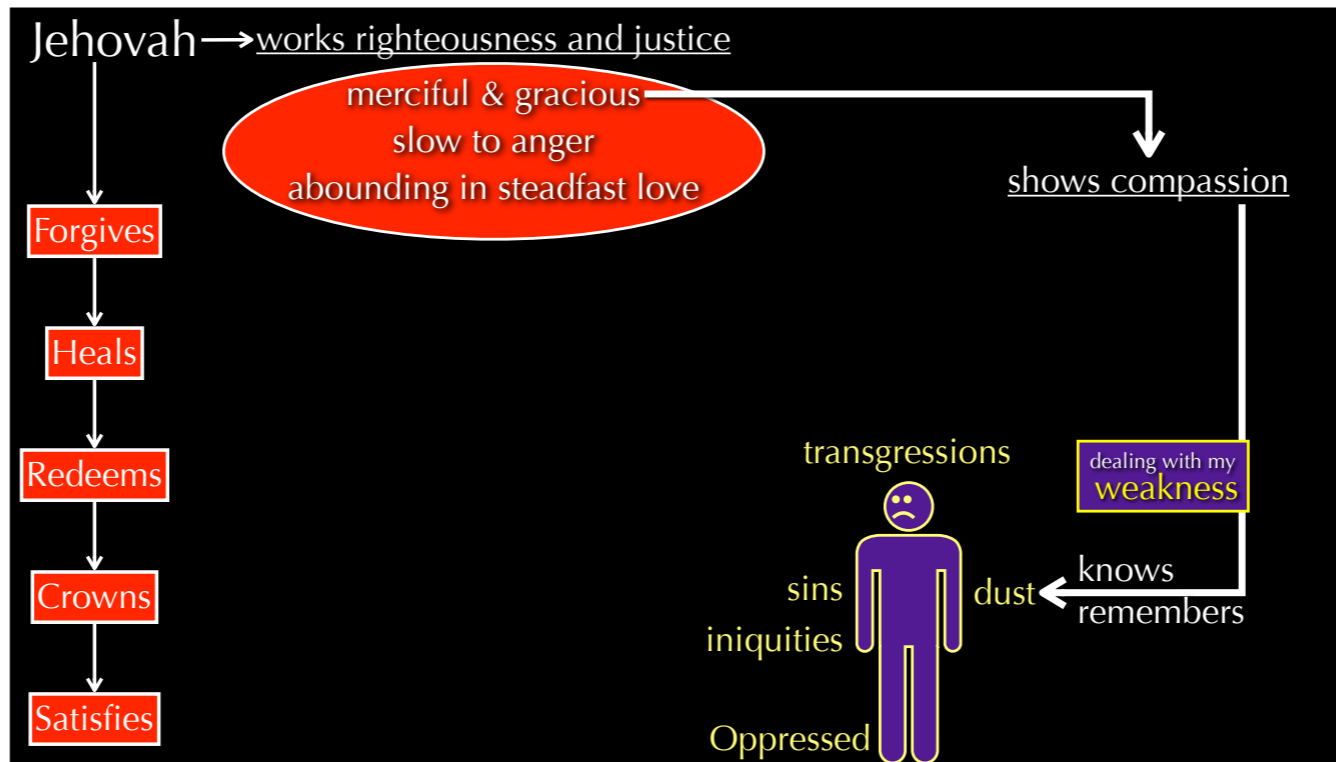


• 13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

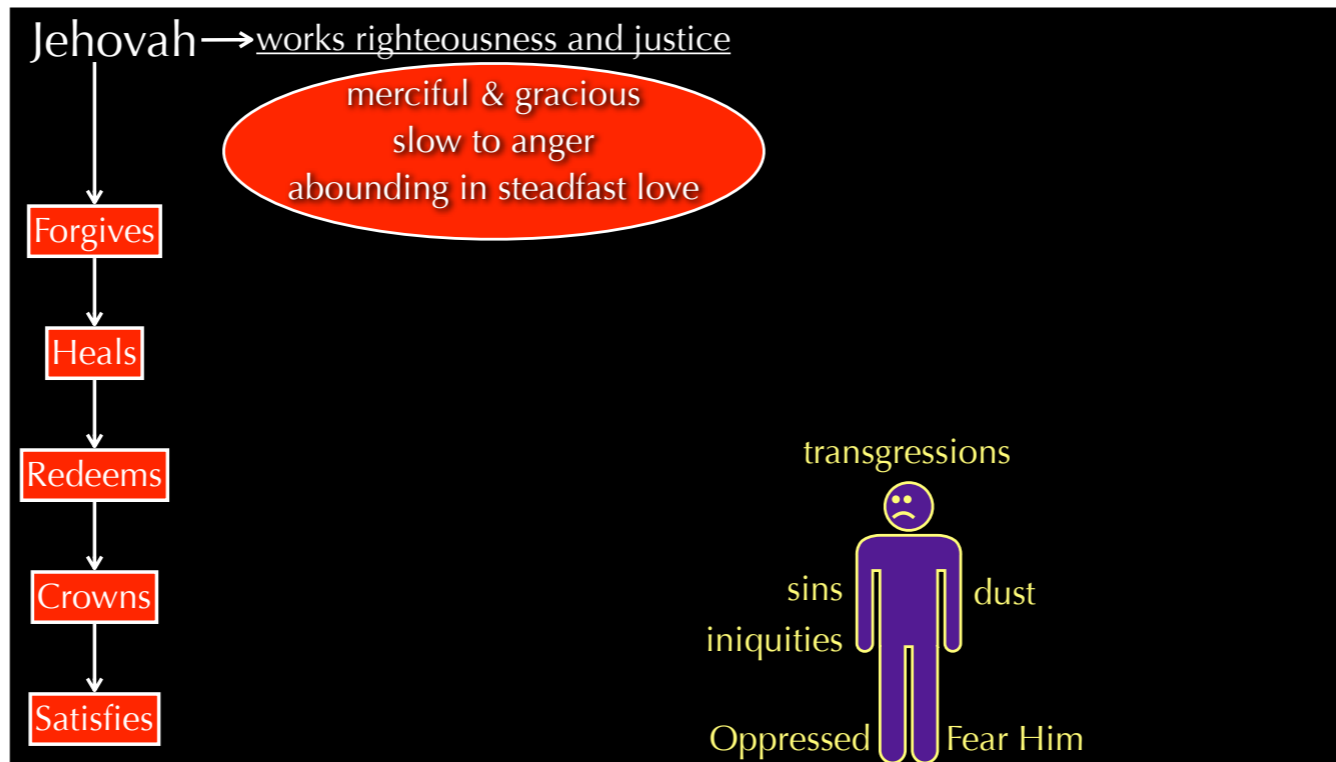
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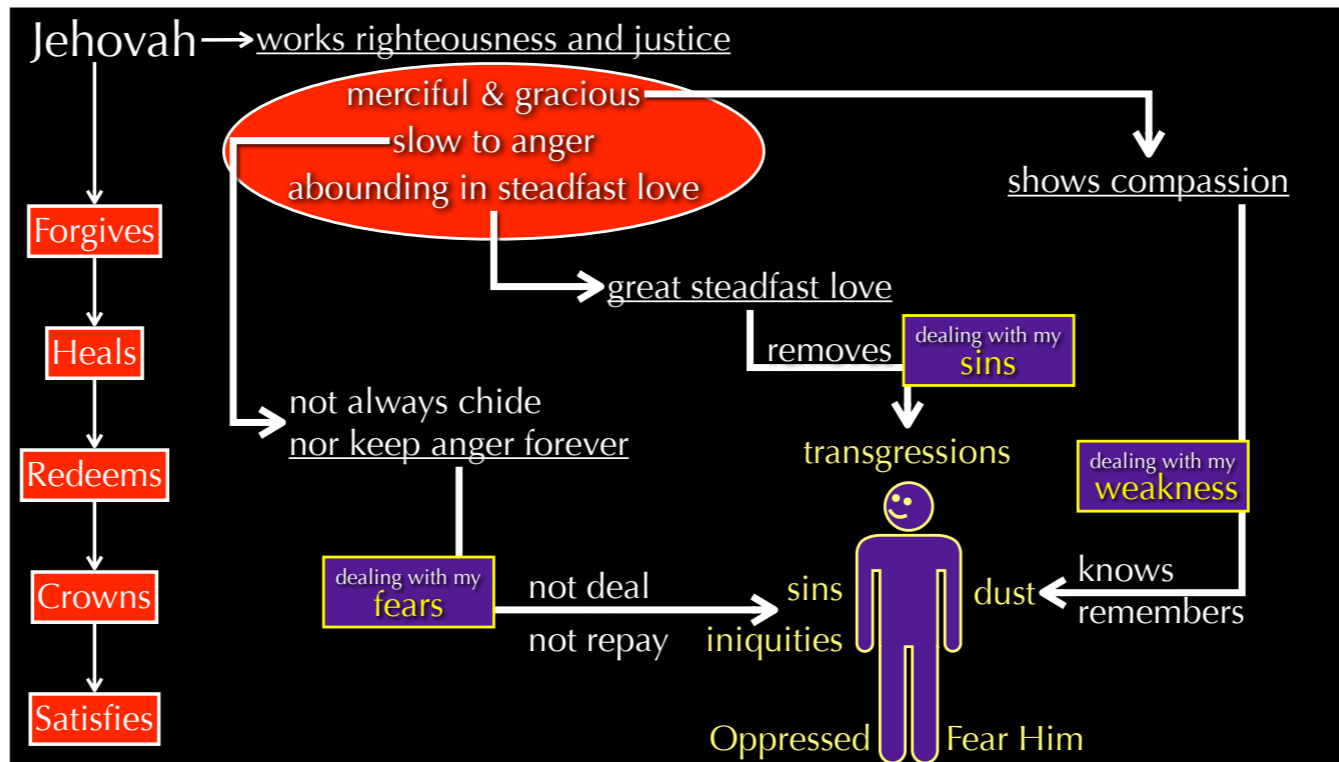
- 14 For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.



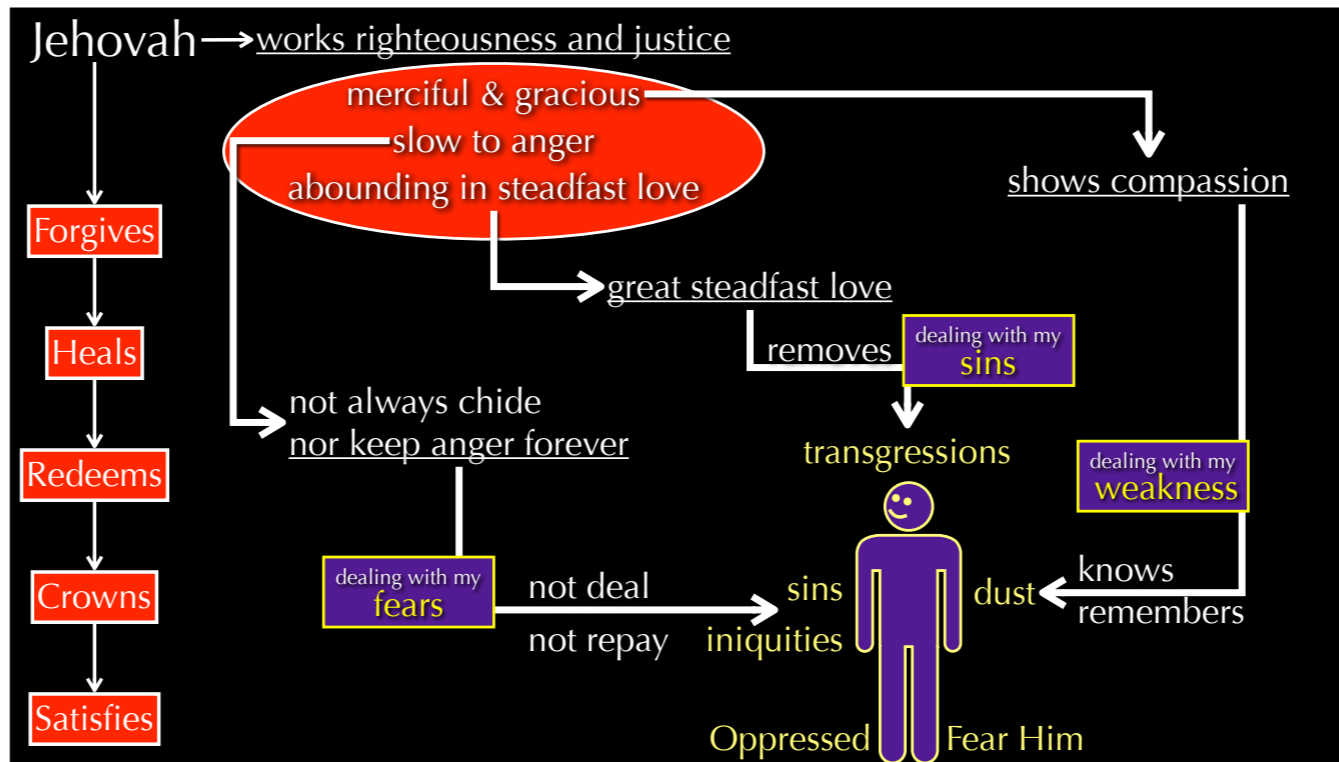
- Dealing with my weakness
 - Frame, dust: we are not god, we are human.
 - Weak, frail, and short lived (15)
- Father with a child: knows that a child is a child.
 - shows compassion vs. “he should have known better”
 - if child spills milk
 - if child throws a fit
 - not just “well-behaved” child
- He knows that we are human, and doesn’t expect us to be more than human.
 - Doesn’t excuse sin.
 - Knows us for what we are.
- His focus is not on the sin, but on us.
- His focus is not on himself (as if we had hurt him), but on us



- 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward **those who fear him**;
- 13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to **those who fear him**.
- Clearly, our Father expects us to have respect for him, to honor him.
 - Those who have a rebellious heart do not honor His
 - Difference between Saul and David... David always feared God.
- 2 Corinthians 7:1 Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.



- Forgiveness
 - God is not angry and won't repay us for our sins
 - God is so full of love that he removes our sins
 - God is so compassionate that he understands our struggles with sins.
- Our Father makes it easy for us to seek his forgiveness!
 - Repentance should be the natural response to a compassionate, loving, and not angry heart.
- Heals, Redeems, Crowns, and Satisfies



- Does God smile when he forgives me?
 - This passage says YES!
- This is the salvation promised to us by Jesus.
- Your sins, no matter what they are, can be forgiven.
- Will you believe in Him, repent, and be baptized?

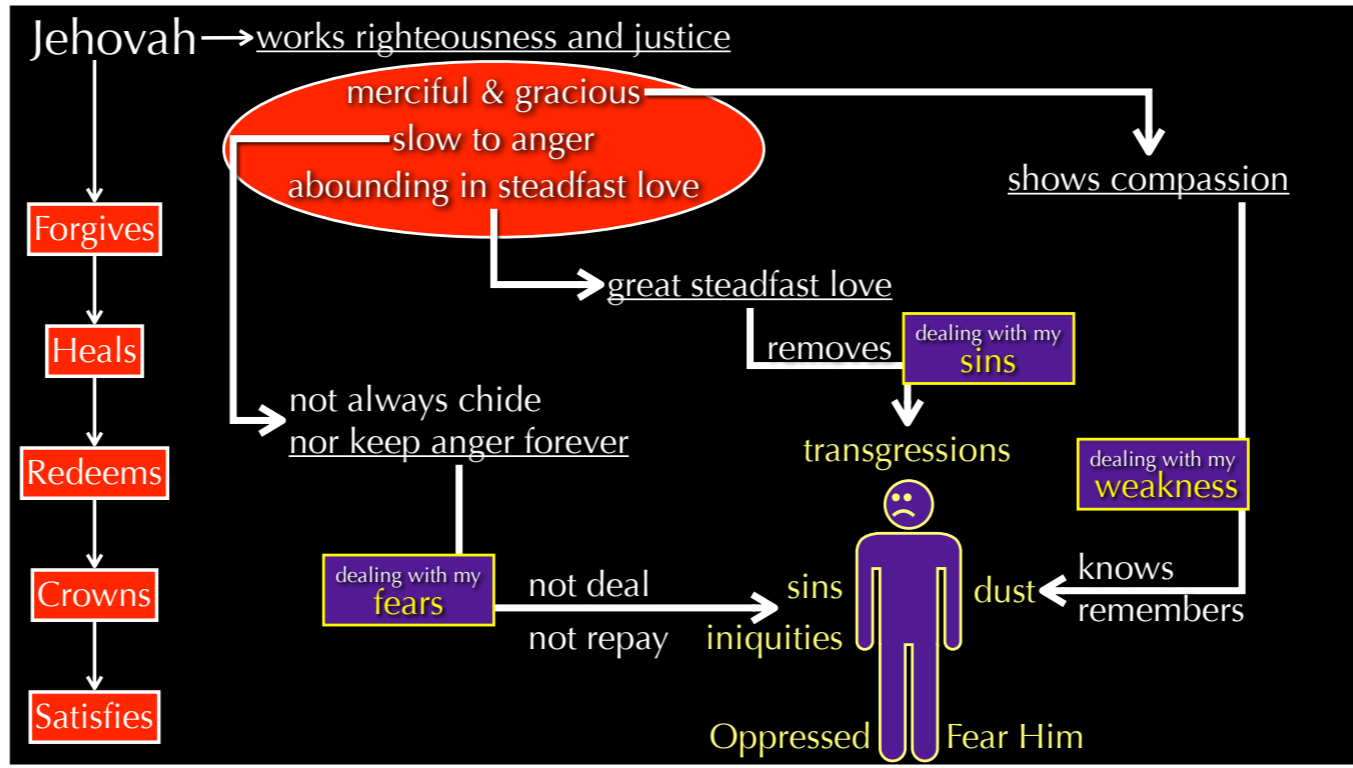
**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Forgives & Heals & Redeems & Crowns & Satisfies

Merciful & Gracious	Slow to Anger	Abounding in Steadfast Love
dealing with ... Our Frailty dealing with ... Our Fears dealing with ... Our Sins		
as a Father... shows compassion	not always chide nor keep anger forever	great steadfast love
knows our frame remembers that we are dust	not deal with us according to our sins nor repay us according to our iniquities	Removes transgressions

How Jehovah's Forgiveness Works

Psalm 103:6-14

Synopsis: In this lesson, we'll see that Jehovah's character makes it easy for us to repent and receive forgiveness.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."