

Woman Charged With Murder Reportedly Searched, ‘Does God Forgive Murderers?’ Before Arrest

A Connecticut woman accused of murdering a registered sex offender reportedly asked Google a question many people have wrestled with throughout history: “Does God forgive murderers?”

According to The Christian Post, investigators allege 27-year-old Cynthia Martinez searched that question on her iPhone on March 16, the same day police believe 29-year-old Derick Mercado-Labonte was killed. Court documents state, “Cynthia’s iPhone 15 in a red case had an internet search on the morning of 3/16/2026 asking if God forgave murderers,” according to an affidavit.

Martinez has been charged with murder, tampering with physical evidence, illegal discharge of a firearm and criminal use of a weapon, according to a report from WTNH News8. Investigators allege phone data, DNA evidence and ballistics connect her to the crime. She has pleaded not guilty.

A Question Bigger Than the Investigation

The criminal case will ultimately be decided in a courtroom. But the question reportedly found on Martinez’s phone has already been answered in Scripture.

Can God forgive a murderer?

The Bible’s answer is yes.

That does not make murder any less evil. Scripture consistently condemns the taking of innocent life and teaches that those who commit crimes remain accountable for their actions. Yet the Gospel also declares that no sinner is beyond the reach of God's grace through genuine repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23, MEV).



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Paul's Life Proves No One Is Beyond Redemption

Perhaps the greatest example is the apostle Paul.

Before meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus, Paul—then known as Saul—approved of Stephen's execution and relentlessly persecuted the early Church, imprisoning believers and trying to destroy the Christian faith.

Yet God transformed the persecutor into one of Christianity's greatest missionaries.

Years later, Paul described himself by saying, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief" (1 Tim. 1:15).

Paul's past was never erased, but it was forgiven. His life became a testimony to God's mercy rather than his own righteousness.

Forgiveness Does Not Cancel Justice

A more modern example is David Berkowitz, the convicted "Son of Sam" serial killer.

While serving multiple life sentences in prison, Berkowitz publicly professed faith in Jesus Christ and has spent decades speaking about repentance and the transforming power of the Gospel. At the same time, he has repeatedly acknowledged that he deserves to remain in prison for the horrific crimes he committed.

His testimony reflects an important biblical truth: God's forgiveness does not eliminate earthly consequences.

Our faith teaches both mercy and justice. A person can receive forgiveness from God while still facing the legal consequences of his or her actions. Repentance does not erase accountability.

Whether Martinez is ultimately convicted remains for the courts to determine. But the question investigators say she searched continues to point to the heart of the Gospel.

No sin is too great for the grace of Jesus Christ when there is genuine repentance. At the same time, God's forgiveness never excuses evil or removes humanity's responsibility to pursue justice. The cross offers redemption, while the law continues to uphold accountability. Scripture teaches both, and together they reveal the fullness of God's perfect justice and mercy.

James Lasher, a seasoned writer and editor at Charisma Media, combines faith and storytelling with a journalism background from Otterbein University and ministry experience in Guatemala and at the LA Dream Center. A Marine Corps and Air Force veteran, he is the author of *The Revelation of Jesus: A Common Man's Commentary* and a contributor to Charisma magazine. For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@.