

Myth #6: *Christians Must Forgive and Forget*

The sixth in the series:
Urban Myths: Debunking Christian Clichés
June 26 & 27, 2010

1. Why we forgive:

There are a variety of reasons that should motivate us to forgive:

- A spiritual reason: God's ____.
- An emotional reason: your _____.
- A social reason: your _____.
- A physical reason: your _____.

2. The extent to which we are to forgive: *There is a key phrase that encapsulates our goal.*

- Forgive as _____ forgiven.

3. How God forgives:

There is a confusing facet - God says he remembers our sin no more.

- What this *can't* mean: God _____?
- What this *must* mean: He _____!

4. How we can forgive:

There is a difference between forgiving and restoring trust.

- Forgiveness can be _____.
- Trust must be re-_____ over time.

Questions for Personal Reflection And Group Discussion

1. What makes forgiveness such a perennially relevant topic?
2. Of the various reasons why we should forgive, which one particularly motivates you?
3. Did any of the Bible references given in that first section of the sermon jump out at you? If not, reread what Jesus said about forgiveness in the Lord's Prayer (Matt. 6:12,14,15). His words are shocking. What did he mean?
4. Read Col. 3:13 and Eph. 4:32. God's kind of forgiveness is our standard. How does God forgive?
5. Have you used the phrase, "forgive and forget?" What have you meant by this? Can people really forget? Can God do so?
6. What does the story of King David's sin teach about forgiveness?
7. Have you ever had anyone demand instant restoration as proof of your forgiveness? How is trust re-earned?
8. What would you say to the guy who is turning the tables and blaming his mate for not immediately extending trust?
9. Privately pray for those who have hurt you. Ask God to change and heal your heart. Release the offense and be open to restoration of the relationship as trust is earned.
10. Memorize Luke 18:27.

**Myth #5: *Christians Must Forgive
and Forget***

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1. Why we forgive:

*There are a variety of reasons
that should motivate us to forgive:*

- A spiritual reason: God's will.
- A emotional reason: your peace.
- A social reason: your relationships.
- A physical reason: your health.

**2. The extent to which we are to
forgive: *There is a key phrase that
encapsulates our goal.***

- Forgive as you have been forgiven.

3. How God forgives:

*There is a confusing facet - God says
he remembers our sin no more.*

- What this *can't* mean: God can't recall?
- What this *must* mean: He won't refocus!

4. How we can forgive:

*There is a difference between
forgiving and restoring trust.*

- Forgiveness can be instantaneous.
- Trust must be re-earned over time.