

Forgiving Means Forgetting

10 Dumb Things Smart Christians Believe, Part 2

June 11th, 2017

Forgiving is not an **OPTION**

Dumb Idea #2: Forgive Means Forgetting

“Forget” means an inability to recall something – it’s the opposite of **REMEMBERING**
Jeremiah 31:34 (NIV) “The Lord declares, ‘For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.’”
Psalms 103:12 (NIV) “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He [God] removed our transgressions from us.”

When God says He doesn’t remember our sins anymore, it means that God no longer **RESPONDS TO US** in light of those sins

My sins no longer derail my **RELATIONSHIP** with God; they no longer collect God’s **WRATH** toward me; they are completely gone from my **ACCOUNT**

Why Is This Such A Big Deal? When the call to forgive morphs into a call to forget, we...

- Get **ANGRY** at God

When getting right with God doesn’t make everything right with life, it’s easy to become disillusioned & angry with God, especially if we think His forgiveness should have **REMOVED** all the traces and consequences of our sin

Those who assume forgiving meant forgetting often can’t understand why God hadn’t **FIXED** everything they’d broken

- Develop **UNREASONABLE** expectations

We tend to assume that if someone has forgiven us, whatever happened in the past should be a **DEAD** issue. The other person should just get over it and **MOVE ON**

The reality is healing takes **TIME**

- Often **GIVE UP**

Equating forgiving with forgetting makes forgiveness seem impossibly out of **REACH**

How Does God Forgive?

In the spiritual and eternal realm, forgiveness wipes the slate **CLEAN**

In the earthly & temporal arena God’s forgiveness offers a **SECOND CHANCE**

Forgiveness doesn’t mean removing all the **CONSEQUENCES** (*see story of David in 2 Samuel 12:1-20*) God offers a second chance – not a fresh start free from all the consequences of sin, but a genuine opportunity to become **SOMETHING ELSE** in the eyes of God

Learning To Forgive (What the Bible says)

- Stop keeping **SCORE**

Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV) “Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy times seven.’”

We have an amazing ability to **UNDERCOUNT** our own misdeeds while **MULTIPLYING** the wrongdoing of others

- Get a good **MIRROR**

Matthew 18:35 (NIV) “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.” (*See Matthew 18:21-35*)

When it comes to forgiveness, it's **FOOLISH** to refuse to forgive others when God has already forgiven us

Colossians 3:13 (NIV) "Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

- **REBUKE** when wronged, **FORGIVE** when asked

Forgiveness is not the same thing as overlooking everything people say or do

Luke 17:3 (NIV) "So watch yourselves. 'If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them.'"

There is a **TIME AND PLACE** for confrontation, rebuke, and pointing out our displeasure at what is being done

- Let God be **GOD**

We are not to seek personal **REVENGE**; instead, we turn vengeance over to **GOD**

2 Timothy 4:14 (NIV) "Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done."

Romans 12:19 (NIV) "Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord."

- The **TRUST** issue

While forgiveness puts aside all bitterness & all plans for revenge, it doesn't make someone **TRUSTWORTHY** or turn the person back into our **BEST FRIEND**

Trust has to be **EARNED**. Close social ties are a **PRIVILEGE**. We don't **OWE** anyone either one.

Proverbs 14:15 (NCV) "Fools will believe anything, but the wise think about what they do."

How Can We Get There?

Forgiveness doesn't come **EASY** or **NATURALLY**. Ultimately, it's a **SUPERNATURAL** act motivated and empowered from the inside out

- Prayer of **PERMISSION**: I give God permission to **CHANGE** the way I feel about a person or situation

This forces me to squarely face the **HARDNESS** of my heart & my subconscious **RESISTANCE**
Psalms 139:23-24 (NIV) "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends You, and lead me along the path of everlasting life."

- **SIN** Walk: Take a walk and try to remember all my **SINS** I can recall

It renews my awe and gratitude for the incredible **GRACE** & **FORGIVENESS** I've received
Colossians 3:13 (NLT) "Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."

When we offer forgiveness to those who have **NO EXCUSE** – and for things most of the world would consider unforgivable – we become most like **JESUS**

My Next Step Today Is:

- I have had a faulty view of forgiveness. I will align forgiveness with what God says in Scripture
- I have someone I need to forgive. I am asking God to help me do it His way

Next week: Join us as we explore Dumb Mistake #3: A Godly Home Guarantees Godly Kids. Bring a friend!

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