

When You Can't Say, "I Forgive You"

To Forgive Divine - Part 1 of 6

Two basic truths about human beings:

1. Sin is a universal problem.

"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."
Romans 3:23

2. God offers us forgiveness of sins.

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

FOUR FORGIVENESS MYTHS:

1. Forgiveness means we will go back to the way things were.

"Barnabas wanted to take John Mark along. However, Paul didn't think it was right to take a person like him along. John Mark had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to work. Paul and Barnabas disagreed so sharply that they parted ways."
Acts 15:37-39
(GW)

10 years later...

Paul: **"Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. You have received instructions about Mark. If he comes to you, welcome him."**
Colossians 4:10 (GW)

An additional 8 years later...

Paul: **"Bring Mark with you; he'll be my right-hand man."**
2 Timothy 4:11 (Message)

2. Forgiveness means there will be no consequences.

"Then David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the Lord.' Nathan replied, 'The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.' But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the Lord, the son born to you will die."
2 Samuel 12:13-14

3. Forgiveness is merely your Christian duty.

"You're done with that old life. It's like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you've stripped off and put in the fire. Now you're dressed in a new wardrobe... So dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline...quick to forgive an offense."
Colossians 3:9-13 (Message)

4. Forgiveness requires they first say, "I apologize."

"Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) Jesus commanded Peter, 'Put your sword away!'"
John 18:10-11 (TNIV)

"But Jesus answered, 'No more of this!' And he touched the man's ear and healed him."
Luke 22:51

"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
Romans 5:6-8