FORGIVENESS AND FORGETTING

"If you have really forgiven someone, you should be able to forget what they have done to you."

- Jeremiah 31:34c ... for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

- It’s not that God ____________ remember, it’s that He ________________ remember!

- Romans 4:7-8 (NLT) "Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight. Yes, what joy for those whose sin is no longer counted against them by the Lord."

- Forgetting is a function of the ________________; forgiving is a function of the ________________.

FORGIVENESS AND REPENTANCE

"You cannot honestly forgive someone unless that person shows some remorse for what they did."

There are at least three arguments people use for demanding repentance before granting forgiveness:

1. Forgiveness needs to be ________________.
   Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

2. Forgiving an unrepentant person invites further ________________.
   Romans 5:20b, 6:1-2 But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound ... What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?
3. Forgiving an unrepentant person is _____________________.

The issue of repentance is vitally important to ________________ forgiveness, but totally irrelevant to ________________ forgiveness.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

FORGIVENESS AND CONSEQUENCES

"If you really forgive someone, you would want that person to be released from the consequences of their actions."

The Bible clearly distinguishes between two very important words:

• ________________ is my desire to see another person suffer for the pain he has caused me. The Bible consistently warns against harboring this kind of feeling in my heart.

  Romans 12:19 (CEV) Dear friends, don't try to get even. Let God take revenge. In the Scriptures the Lord says, "I am the one to take revenge and pay them back."

• ________________ is the payment God or society might demand from someone because of a wrong they have committed against us, or against society as a whole.


1. Consequences promote ________________ in society.
   - Genesis 9:6 (NKJV) Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God he made man.

2. Consequences serve as a ________________ to others.
   - 1 Timothy 5:20 (NLT) Anyone who sins should be rebuked in front of the whole church so that others will have a proper fear of God.

3. Consequences prevent us from further ________________.
   - Psalm 119:67 (NLT) I used to wander off until you disciplined me; but now I closely follow your word.

FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

"If you genuinely forgive someone, you should rebuild your relationship with that person."

• Matthew 5:23-24 (NLT) 23 “So if you are standing before the altar in the Temple, offering a sacrifice to God, and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there beside the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

• Psalm 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

FORGIVENESS DEPENDS UPON __________, WHILE RECONCILIATION DEPENDS UPON ____________.

• Romans 12:18 (NKJV) If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

• Amos 3:3 (NKJV) Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?

Reconciliation usually involves three ingredients:

• ________________ – admitting that we are responsible for the wrong that has been done to another person

• ________________ – offering some type of compensation to the person we have wronged for the loss they suffered

• ________________ – demonstrating a change in our behavior over a period of time toward the person we have wronged

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• Why would a forgiving God (or a forgiving person) still allow someone to suffer consequences for their actions?