

Intersections: Christianity & Today

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Forgiving and Forgetting

1. Why does *not* forgiving feel so good?
2. Does God ever forget anything? How can He if He is all-knowing? The technical word is *omniscient*.
3. This is part of the Ten Commandments: “For I, the Lord, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sins of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me.”
—God Exodus 20:5

4. I dare you! Give an example from your own life of some injury/injustice/abuse that you have received that you have forgiven and forgotten.



I double dare you!

5. In our society, one of our favorite target for non-forgiveness is ourselves. We love to beat up the child in ourselves. We say to ourselves, “You stupid idiot.”
6. True or False? If you can find justification for what you did, then you are unforgivable.
7. Not forgiving is like burying Dad in a rented suit.
8. Forgiving is, of course, returning good for evil. Both in Romans 12:20 and in Proverbs 25:21–22 we are instructed to barbeque the brains of our enemies. The exact words are: “If your enemy is hungry, you should give him food, and if he is thirsty, let him drink. Thus you heap red-hot coals on his head.”
9. Is it possible to forgive someone and still remember what they did to you?
10. The Jews, the Nazis, forgiveness?
11. Forgiving an ex-spouse is probably one of the hardest things to do. Does that mean we have to forget also? . . . and then remarry him/her?
12. “Before criticizing your wife’s faults, remember that they may have prevented her from getting a better husband.”
—Dick Enberg
13. Is this how forgiveness works? “Our marriage is based on compromise—he admits he’s wrong and I forgive him.”
—Carol Spieker
14. Crazy or completely sane? A conversation with God in which you say, “God, I was totally unjustified in doing what I did, and I want to join You in forgiving me.”