

IV. FORGIVING MEANS FORGETTING.

-- DISCUSSION Q'S: --

INTRODUCTION

What does the Bible mean when it speaks of God remembering our sins no more? It simply means that He no longer responds to us in light of those sins. They no longer derail our relationship with him. They no longer garner His wrath. They are gone-completely-from our account.

DISCUSSION

What was the hardest thing you ever had to forgive?
Based on the sermon, do you think you truly forgave the person?

EXPLANATION

In this week's message, we learned that forgiving does not mean forgetting. In your opinion, does that make forgiveness more or less challenging? Explain.
What theological issues result from equating forgiveness with forgetting?
If forgiveness is not forgetting, what does it actually consist of?

APPLICATION - Read Romans 12:17-21.

Why is it so difficult for us to surrender vengeance to God?
How can an understanding of Godly forgiveness help us accept the consequences of our actions? What are some examples of consequences we may have to experience, even after we are forgiven?
What are ways we can set boundaries with those who we have forgiven?

MISSION

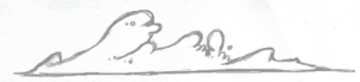
How does Godly forgiveness differ from the way the secular world reacts to injustice?
Who do you still need to forgive? Why haven't you already?
As a GC, pray together and grant God "permission" to change your hearts toward those who have wronged/offended you.



Read Hebrews 11.

HOMEWORK:

Who is someone with faith you admire? Why?



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TODAY'S VERSES:

MY NOTES:

Psalms 103:11-12
Micah 7:19
Hebrews 8:12
Genesis 8:1
2 Samuel 12
Matthew 18:21-35
Colossians 3:12-13
Matthew 5:39, 41
Luke 23:34
Luke 17:3
Romans 12:17-21
2 Timothy 4:14
1 Timothy 1:20
Romans 12:19
Ephesians 5:1

[OURELEMENT.ORG/STUPIDSUMMER](http://ourelement.org/stupidsummer)

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

ourelement.org/events



EKIDS! BAPTISM CLASS
Today, 12:45p

NEWCOMER PARTY
Friday, August 16th, 7p

MOM'S DAY OUT
Lompoc Aquatic Center
Saturday, 3-6p

MEN'S BREAKFAST
Saturday, 8a
Hometown Buffett

CHIX WITH STIX
Saturday, 9a
Cafe Noir



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-- SERMON NOTES --

Psalm 103:11-12 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

FORGETTING AND REMEMBERING

If you look up the word forget in any English dictionary, you'll find its primary meaning is an inability to recall something (as in forgetting where you put the keys). It is the opposite of remembering. When the Bible says that God forgives our sins and remembers them no more, many of us think that means He literally erases them from memory, like they never happened.

People have a hard time understanding verses such as Psalm 103:12 "as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us" in their proper context.

To better understand forgetting, it may help to understand that when the Bible speaks of God remembering something, it doesn't mean that He forgets something. Remembering, in the context of God, means that He renews His work with the person or situation at hand. In Genesis 8:1 it says "But God remembered Noah." After Noah entered the ark and floated on the turbulent waters for about five months, the scriptures tell us that God remembered him.

Remembering does not mean one of the angels had to remind God that Noah was floating around on the earth with no one to pilot the boat, it means that God renewed His work in Noah's life.

If forgiveness meant God literally had no memory of events that are listed in the bible (such as David and Bathsheba, Peter's denial, or Joseph's brother selling him into slavery), we have a major theological dilemma because you and I would know things God isn't aware of. It would mean that the Bible contains stories God Himself can't remember...and that is just stupid.

What does the Bible mean when it speaks of God remembering our sins no more? It simply means that He no longer responds to us in light of those sins. They no longer derail our relationship with him. They no longer garner His wrath. They are gone—completely—from our account; it doesn't mean He can't remember all the things we've done. An omniscient God doesn't forget things.

FORGIVENESS

In the Old Testament the word translated as forgiveness literally means pardon. In the New Testament the word literally means remission. They are both the equivalents of forgiveness.

Forgiveness means giving up resentment or a claim to retribution on account of an offense. The offense could range from someone stealing your personal property, impinging on your rights, insulting your honor, or it could even be a violation of moral law.

The normal conditions of forgiveness are repentance and the willingness to make reparation or atonement. The EFFECT of forgiveness is the restoration of both parties to the former state of relationship. As a Christian, forgiveness is a duty, and no limit should be set to the extent of forgiveness (Luke 17:4). In Matt 18:34-35 and Luke 15:28-30 we are told that an unforgiving spirit is one of the most serious of sins.

God forgives man's sins because of the atoning death of Christ. God's forgiveness of humans is closely related to human forgiveness of others (Matthew 5:23-24; 6:12; Colossians 1:14; 3:13). Those forgiven by God before the Incarnation were forgiven because of Christ, whose death was foreordained from eternity (Hebrews 11:40).

We must always remember that the deity of Christ includes the power to forgive sins (Mark 2:7; Luke 5:21; 7:49).