



1. Think of a time when you have been forgiven. Was it deserved? How did it feel?
2. What is the purpose of forgiveness?
3. Are we required to reconcile with a person on a personal level in order to truly forgive them? Should forgiveness be offered without repentance?
4. What is the difference between true repentance and a mere apology?
5. How should we handle repeat offences?
6. Matthew 6: 14-16 says : *For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*
How does this verse fit with our concept of salvation?
7. Forgiveness is said to bring about better mental health, a freer conscience, and other benefits. If we forgive people based solely on selfish reasons, is this true forgiveness? If people believe their eternal salvation would be in danger if they did not offer forgiveness, then is the forgiveness real or is it an act of self-protection?
8. If forgiveness was universally bestowed without question would this have an impact on issues such as justice and safety? Is forgiveness always appropriate, or does it get in the way of fairness?
9. *Forgiveness is free but not cheap.* Discuss.
10. Does God forget when he forgives?
11. Does holding forgiveness in such high regard risk creating an expectation of forgiveness that is unfair on the victims? For example, contrition is all well and good, but to go that extra step and “beg forgiveness” creates a sort of moral inversion where the victimiser claims the moral high ground, and if their victim doesn’t oblige, then suddenly they’re ‘un-Christian’.
12. To whom should we confess our sins? What if our sins are thoughts rather than actions against another person? What if publicly confessing a sin would cause more hurt?
13. How do you know when you’ve truly forgiven someone? How do you know when God has forgiven you?