

This is Us

THE CHURCH DEFINED

We should initiate the move towards forgiveness just as God initiated the move towards forgiving us.

Heb. 12:14 - 'pursue peace with all people'

Rom. 12:18 - 'as much as it depends on you
be at peace with everyone'

Matt 18:15 - 'If your brother sins against you...
go to him in private'

Matt 5:23-24 - if you realize someone has something
against you... go to them'

If Christians are easily offended or injured by every one, we can be rendered totally ineffective.

If I feel hurt or offended by something you did or did not do, **YOU ARE GUILTY!** There is **no defense**; **the hurt person becomes God.** His/her emotions become **judge and jury** - truth does not matter. **All that matters is the sovereign suffering of the aggrieved.** It is above question!

Proverbs 19:11:

"A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense".

*1 Peter 4:8:
"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since
love covers a multitude of sins".*

*Colossians 3:13:
"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of
you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the
Lord forgave you".*

Forgiveness ...

a. is not forgetting what happened

Jeremiah 31:34

*For I will forgive their wickedness and will
remember their sins no more.*

Forgiveness...

b. is not always about reconciliation or peace
at all cost.

The Bible actually directs us to action that may cause offense or conflict.

Christians must sometimes ...

‘convict’ (Jude 15)

‘rebuke’ (2 Tim. 4:2)

‘admonish’ (Rom. 15:14)

‘resist’ or ‘oppose’ (Gal 2:11)

‘solemnly charge’ (2 Tim. 2:14)

‘contend earnestly’ (Jude 3)

‘tell the person their fault’ (Matt 18)

Forgiveness

c. Is not saying what they did was ok - its not excusing their wrong.

Forgiveness means...
“I will not dwell on this incident”

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**“I will not bring up this incident again and use it against
you as leverage’**

Forgiveness means...

“I will not dwell on this incident”

“I will not bring up this incident again and use it against
you”

“I will not talk to others about this incident”

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**“I will not bring up this incident again and use it against
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“I will not talk to others about this incident”

“I will pray for that person”

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“I will not dwell on this incident”

**“I will not bring up this incident again and use it against
you”**

“I will not talk to others about this incident”

“I will pray for that person”

**"If appropriate, I will do acts of kindness towards that
person"**

Ephesians 4:31-32

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.