

Christianity



- Christianity is known as a religion of forgiveness, love and compassion
- Jesus' teachings and the teachings of moral exemplars, e.g. MLK, show forgiveness to all
- **"Do not judge and you will not be judged. Do not condemn and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven."** (Luke 6:37)
- The Lord's Prayer: **"forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us."**
- In Jesus' Beatitudes (the blessings listed by Jesus in his sermon on the mount) demonstrate forgiveness:

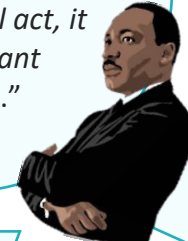
"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."



"Let no man pull you low enough to hate him."
— Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr

"Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude."



How to get forgiveness

- For Roman Catholics, forgiveness is supported through confession and atonement, e.g. prayers. RCs believe that Christ started the sacrament of penance and they believe that God's forgiveness is granted through a priest's pardon after confession
- Evangelical Christians believe that forgiveness is granted by God and reliant upon faith. Here, confession is not accepted as a route to forgiveness.



Gee Walker

"I have to forgive them. I cannot hate. Hate is what killed Anthony."



Jesus & the Bible

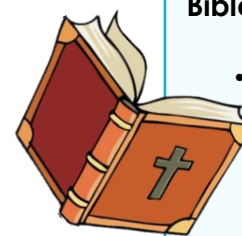
Jesus' Actions:

- Jesus visited Zacchaeus, despite his cheating and greed. This enabled Zacchaeus to make amends and reform.
- Jesus forgive the adulterous woman, saying that 'he who has not sinned can throw the first stone'.



Bible Stories:

- The Parable of the Prodigal Son teaches about forgiveness. A son demands his inheritance from his father, abandons his family and wastes his money. Later, poor and hungry, he returns to his father who forgives his son and welcomes him back.
- The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant tells us that we must forgive others, 'Seventy times seven', in order to be forgiven. So, Christians believe they should forgive a limitless number of times because they will be forgiven by God for their many sins.
- *"If you do not forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."* (Matthew 6:15)



- Forgiveness is crucial for human relationships
- We all make mistakes and are capable of selfish behaviour, but are also capable of understanding and forgiveness.
- The Golden Rule to treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves required us to forgive mistakes and selfish behaviour and accept different views
- Human compassion and common sense compels us to forgive
- It is not easy to forgive, and sometimes forgiveness seems impossible, but the best we can do is to work to make sure that whatever needs forgiving does not happen again
- *"Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive."* (C.S.Lewis)



Humanism



Forgiveness & Reconciliation