

# The Time Constraints of Sin

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**If you forgive others, your sins will be forgiven.**

*Matthew 6:14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:*

*Matthew 6:15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

Why and how do you suppose the above teaching of Jesus is true?

It has to do with a trick of time and a model of the mind. Here is the reasoning:

1. The only time you can sin is in present time. Less finite and more absolute beings are not so restricted, perhaps, but we are.
2. Once you have sinned and the sin is over, you are no longer a sinner.
3. The consideration that another person is bad and *deserves* punishment is a sin because it is the same as judging and not forgiving the other person. Forgiveness by its very nature proscribes punishment except at the hands of the group because justice is a group function.
4. As long as you consider yourself or anyone else deserving of punishment, you are sinning. That is because the consideration itself exists in present time.
5. The only thing remaining of a sin that no longer exists is the memory of it and its repercussions. Most people construe the memory of sin as having the ability to position the sin in present time, and so they "bear a grudge" against the sinner.
6. The only remedy for this is to forgive the sinner, whether he be yourself or another person.
7. Forgiveness is thus both the therapy and cure because it is a present time attitudinal decision that forces out of existence the present time grudge. Forgiveness and harsh judgment cannot mutually coexist in one's mind.
8. That is why Matt 6:15 is true - if you do not forgive others, your own grudge condemns you seem unforgiven. In reality, the Heavenly Father has already forgiven you, but you can open the channel to receive that forgiveness only by forgiving others.

The purpose of this essay is to bring home the point that we cannot go around thinking others are no good so-and-so's forever locked to their fates of being no-goods. If a person is not sinning, he is not a sinner!!

Your challenge is to forgive others, especially when they are not presently sinning against you. People can and do wise up and change to become more sincere followers of the teachings and example of Jesus. Many pressures conspire to bring about such change. All your grudge does is make it harder for them to seek the Master's way because you introvert their attention onto the sinful past and off of the sinless future. The danger is that you will thereby pressure them to bring the sin of the past back into the present *because it seems to be expected of them*.

Therefore, expect, encourage, and demand the best of others without assuming they will repeat sinful behavior. Radiate love and forgiveness throughout the universe *right now*. "Be you therefore perfect, even as your Father in Heaven is perfect. (Matthew 5:48)" Teach it. Live it.

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