

- Christian teachings about forgiveness
- Examples of forgiveness arising from personal beliefs

Key Concepts

Good	What is morally right and to our advantage.	Evil	What is considered very immoral and wrong.
Forgiveness	Granting pardon for a wrongdoing.	Free Will	Ability to make choices. Nothing is pre-determined.
Justice	Fairness; where everyone has equal opportunities.	Sin	Deliberate immoral action; breaking a religious or moral law.
Suffering	Pain or distress that can be physical or emotional.	Morality	Principles determining right from wrong.

Christian teachings about forgiveness

The **teaching** and **practices** of **Jesus** show the importance of **forgiveness**. He told **Peter** that one should **forgive** not just once but many times. **Jesus** taught that if you want to be **forgiven** then you must forgive others. For **Catholics**, acts of **confession** to a **priest** and **penance** support the giving of **forgiveness**. Many Christians, however, believe that **forgiveness** can only be granted by **God**.

The **prayer** that Jesus taught his disciples (**the Lord's Prayer**) showed the importance of forgiveness **'Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us'**.

Examples of forgiveness arising from personal beliefs

There are many local, national and international examples of Christians who have forgiven others because of their **Christian beliefs**. Forgiving does not mean forgetting. Often the ability to forgive has come through following the example of **Jesus** and through **prayer**. **Martin Luther King** was able to **forgive** those who fire-bombed his house. When **Anthony Walker** was murdered in a racist attack his mother **Gee** **prayed** for the strength to be able to **forgive** her son's killers.

Key Sources of Authority

- **Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "LORD, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."** - Matthew 18:21-22
- **"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins"** - Matthew 6:14-15
- **Conscience**
- **The Lord's Prayer**

Key Connections

Each area of study will connect with other areas in **Component 1** and **Component 2 (Christianity)**.

Consider how...

- **examples of forgiveness relate to the teachings and actions of Martin Luther King (Component 1)**
- **Christian teaching about forgiveness relates to the Lord's Prayer (Component 2).**

Exam Practice

Explain from two religions or religious traditions teachings about forgiveness.