

12 MYTHS

June 8, 2017

12 Myths that Christians Believe That Aren't in the Bible

A myth is a widely held but false belief or idea, a misrepresentation of the truth. Not everything believed as biblical truth is truly biblical. This series will seek to unravel 12 commonly accepted beliefs that cause bondage rather than liberty. Men need to be aware of how nuggets of truth become cornerstones for error when wrongly understood. We need help to build solid scriptural foundations that produce emotional freedom. Christian men have taken so much scripture out of context and made a whole religion out of it. This has caused so many problems for men who need help and instead of being thrown a lifeline; they are left to drown hanging on to a Bible verse thrown from the shoreline. This series looks at the adjustments that need to be made to help men who need solid direction in how to grow to full maturity.

A Man knows that he will never be able to leave his past behind until he faces it, tells the story, and forgive those who have hurt him.

Myth #6: I Need to Leave the Past Behind Philippians 3:7-14

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

Bible Verses: Philippians 3:7-14; Ephesians 5:7-14;
Ephesians 4:32

Videos: Shadowlands (1993) – Anthony Hopkins

Music: The Allman Brothers – No One To Run With

Resources: 12 Christian Beliefs That Can Drive You Crazy – Relief from False Assumptions by Dr. Henry Cloud & Dr. John Townsend

Expose the Darkness – Turn the Light ON!

1. _____ > As men we are caught in the flow of time. We divide our lives into past, present, and future. But the Bible looks at our lives from the perspective of eternity, in which there is no past or future—only the _____ . The things we would say are “in our past” are, according to the Bible, _____ , since from the perspective of eternity that is all there is.
2. _____ > Common statement: “All those things happened in the past and can't be changed.” People have hurt us, we have hurt people, we have suffered wrong, and we have done things that are wrong. But the Bible shifts the focus from the past to the eternal present: “What is the state of you soul and everything in it _____ ? Have your past experiences been exposed to the light? Have they been forgiven? Have you repented of them? Have you exposed the hurt to love and light? Have we grieved over and let go of hurtful things, or are we still hanging onto them? We need to see our lives and our souls not as past and present, but as eternal.
3. _____ > The Bible always asks of us: Have the things in our souls—pain, patterns skills, desires, fears—been exposed to the light of God's grace, truth, and forgiveness? If so, those things are healed and transformed. However, if not, they remain in darkness and are still alive today, creating fruits of darkness.

Expose the Deeds of Darkness.

1. _____ > History is Important! The first biblical directive is that we bring into the light whatever is in darkness. Our past, in biblical terms, is our history. The Bible isn't concerned about when something happened, whether today or ten years ago. The Bible is interested only in whether we have denied the problem and pushed it into the darkness, or whether we have exposed it to the light and dealt with it in God's way.
2. _____ > The Bible calls it confession. It opens us up to the process of transformation (Ephesians 5: 7-14).
3. _____ > The past is important because, until we deal with it, it is part of what the Bible calls “the darkness” of our soul. If we have not confessed sins of the past or forgiven others for sinning against us, then these sins rule us, and the devil gains a stronghold in our lives. Past relationships and feelings need to be dealt with in the present.

The Power of Forgiveness!

1. _____ > Forgiveness is God's way of making right things that have hurt us. Forgiveness is God's way of dealing with the past.
2. _____ > Forgiveness is not an event, it is a process.
 - a) Name Whom to Forgive.
 - b) Acknowledge what happened to you.
 - c) Name the sin.
 - d) Realize who is guilty.
3. _____ > The hurt and abuse people faced as children show themselves in behavioral and relational patterns—patterns that often result in Unforgiveness in their hearts. Because they have never forgiven those who hurt them, they may still be unconsciously angry at them (Ephesians 4:32).

Change How You See the Past.

1. _____ > It is blatantly wrong to teach that we should just forget the past. Past, present, and future are aspects of our soul that need to be reconciled to God.
2. _____ > We cannot change our past. However, we can change how we relate to our past. We must change our internal connections to those who have hurt us by forgiving them. We must release our demand that they somehow make it up to us.
3. _____ > No process can change the past, but God is in the business of redeeming the past. God is in the process of reconciling everything that has gone wrong, including our personal past: he deals with the past, reconciling people to Himself, repairing damage, rebuilding what sin has destroyed (Colossians 1:19-20).
4. _____ > Bring your history to God, whether it happened two days or twenty years ago. Bring it to Him and to His people, allow His light and grace to transform it, bring His truth to bear on it, and experience the reconciliation of your whole life.

ACTION: Journal This!

1. What present feelings about certain events in your past are affecting you today?
2. When have you seen confession lead to transformation and freedom either in your own life or in the life of someone you know?
3. How have you seen forgiveness transform your life or another's life?

Bible Verses**Philippians 3:7-14 –**

7 The very credentials these people are waving around as something special, I'm tearing up and throwing out with the trash - along with everything else I used to take credit for. And why? Because of Christ. **8** Yes, all the things I once thought were so important are gone from my life. Compared to the high privilege of knowing Christ Jesus as my Master, firsthand, everything I once thought I had going for me is insignificant - dog dung. I've dumped it all in the trash so that I could embrace Christ **9** and be embraced by him. I didn't want some petty, inferior brand of righteousness that comes from keeping a list of rules when I could get the robust kind that comes from trusting Christ - God's righteousness. **10** I gave up all that inferior stuff so I could know Christ personally, experience his resurrection power, be a partner in his suffering, and go all the way with him to death itself. **11** If there was any way to get in on the resurrection from the dead, I wanted to do it. **12** I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. **13** Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward - to Jesus. **14** I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.

Ephesians 5:7-14 –

7 Don't even hang around people like that. **8** You groped your way through that murk once, but no longer. You're out in the open now. The bright light of Christ makes your way plain. So no more stumbling around. Get on with it! **9** The good, the right, the true - these are the actions appropriate for daylight hours. **10** Figure out what will please Christ, and then do it. **11** Don't waste your time on useless work, mere busywork, the barren pursuits of darkness. Expose these things for the sham they are. **12** It's a scandal when people waste their lives on things they must do in the darkness where no one will see. **13** Rip the cover off those frauds and see how attractive they look in the light of Christ. **14** Wake up from your sleep, Climb out of your coffins; Christ will show you the light!

Ephesians 4:32 - 32 Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you.

No One To Run With
The Allman Brothers

Everybody wants to know where Jimmy has gone
He left town, I doubt if he's coming back home

Well Tony got a job, three kids and a lovely wife
Working at the commerce bank for the rest of his life

[Chorus:]

Nobody left to run with anymore
Nobody left to do the crazy things we used to do before
Nobody left to run with anymore

I'm gonna hit the road, adios my friend
Go someplace and start all over again

Don't know where I'm going, like a gypsy out on the road
I'll go someplace and join a traveling show

[Chorus:]

Nobody left to run with anymore

Nobody wants to do the crazy things we used to do before
Nobody left to run with anymore

Nobody left to run with anymore
Nobody left to run with anymore

I think Jimmy must have had the right idea
Packed his stuff and he got right out of here

I don't know where he's at but I'm sure that he's ok
Now I realize what Jimmy was trying to say

[Chorus:]

Nobody left to run with anymore
Nobody wants to do the crazy things we used to do before
Nobody left to run with anymore

Nobody left to run with anymore
Nobody left to run with anymore

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Myth #6: "I Need to Leave the Past Behind."

Philippians 3:7-14

Expose the Darkness – Turn the Light ON!

1. **Where are YOU?** > As men we are caught in the flow of time. We divide our lives into past, present, and future. But the Bible looks at our lives from the perspective of eternity, in which there is no past or future—only the **present**. The things we would say are “in our past” are, according to the Bible, **part of our present**, since from the perspective of eternity that is all there is.
2. **Eternal Perspective** > Common statement: “All those things happened in the past and can’t be changed.” People have hurt us, we have hurt people, we have suffered wrong, and we have done things that are wrong. But the Bible shifts the focus from the past to the eternal present: “What is the state of you soul and everything in it **now**?” Have your past experiences been exposed to the light? Have they been forgiven? Have you repented of them? Have you exposed the hurt to love and light? Have we grieved over and let go of hurtful things, or are we still hanging onto them? We need to see our lives and our souls not as past and present, but as eternal.
3. **Expose ALL to the Light** > The Bible always asks of us: Have the things in our souls—pain, patterns skills, desires, fears—been exposed to the light of God’s grace, truth, and forgiveness? If so, those things are healed and transformed. However, if not, they remain in darkness and are still alive today, creating fruits of darkness.

Expose the Deeds of Darkness.

1. **Cover UP or Confessed** > History is Important! The first biblical directive is that we bring into the light whatever is in darkness. Our past, in biblical terms, is our history. The Bible isn't concerned about when something happened, whether today or ten years ago. The Bible is interested only in whether we have denied the problem and pushed it into the darkness, or whether we have exposed it to the light and dealt with it in God's way.
2. **Bring to the Light** > The Bible calls it confession. It opens us up to the process of transformation (Ephesians 5: 7-14).
3. **Darkness of Your Soul** > The past is important because, until we deal with it, it is part of what the Bible calls "the darkness" of our soul. If we have not confessed sins of the past or forgiven others for sinning against us, then these sins rule us, and the devil gains a stronghold in our lives. Past relationships and feelings need to be dealt with in the present.

The Power of Forgiveness!

1. **God's Way** > Forgiveness is God's way of making right things that have hurt us. Forgiveness is God's way of dealing with the past.
2. **Process** > Forgiveness is not an event, it is a process.
 1. Name Whom to Forgive.
 2. Acknowledge what happened to you.
 3. Name the sin.
 4. Realize who is guilty.
3. **Freed from the Past** > The hurt and abuse people faced as children show themselves in behavioral and relational patterns—patterns that often result in Unforgiveness in their hearts. Because they have never forgiven those who hurt them, they may still be unconsciously angry at them (Ephesians 4:32).

Change How You See the Past.

1. **Reality** > It is blatantly wrong to teach that we should just forget the past. Past, present, and future are aspects of our soul that need to be reconciled to God.
2. **Transformation** > We cannot change our past. However, we can change how we relate to our past. We must change our internal connections to those who have hurt us by forgiving them. We must release our demand that they somehow make it up to us.
3. **Redeem the past** > No process can change the past, but God is in the business of redeeming the past. God is in the process of reconciling everything that has gone wrong, including our personal past: he deals with the past, reconciling people to Himself, repairing damage, rebuilding what sin has destroyed (Colossians 1:19-20).
4. **Bring ALL to God** > Bring your history to God, whether it happened two days or twenty years ago. Bring it to Him and to His people, allow His light and grace to transform it, bring His truth to bear on it, and experience the reconciliation of your whole life.

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