

Forgive and Forget (Forgiveness)

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10 September 2017

Prayer

May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us, may the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us. In Jesus Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Scripture

Matthew 18:21-22

Context

Parenting is one of the many joys of life. It is an opportunity to mentor and observe a young person as they mature. Parents spend an inordinate amount of their time trying to educate and teach their children about the world around them. However, as they are teaching their children they are also learning from them. Children often have a unique perspective and a fresh outlook on life. They see things through untarnished lenses and communicate in nontraditional ways. One of the many unique characteristics of children is their ability to transition from one emotional state to another seamlessly. A child can be crying one moment and laughing the next. Their ability to forgive enables them to maintain friendships and learn about life without carrying the baggage of yesterday's disappointments.

Exegesis

Jesus's reply to Peter's question must have been startling. Who could keep count if we had to forgive someone up to 490 times? In fact, that is the whole point of Christ's answer. We should not place limits on our ability to reconcile with our neighbors. We should not keep a record of wrongdoings that will prevent us from reconciling one with another. Instead we should develop a pattern of forgiveness that enables us to have room in our lives for those who have offended us to reconnect.

Conversation

As adults, if we could learn to forgive without limits or hesitation, how much better would our relationships be with each other and Christ?

Questions

1. How can we reestablish relationships with individuals that have offended us?
2. How can forgiving others have a positive impact on our lives?