

Forgiving One Another

Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do ye*. And above all these things *put on love*, which is the bond of perfectness.—Colossians 3:13-14

When we think of Valentine's Day we think of love. Love and forgiveness go together. If we truly love we will forgive.

Can you imagine Jesus loving us so much that he died on the cross but not forgiving us? It is unthinkable. "*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends*" (John 15:13).

It has been said that we write our offences in marble and our blessings in sand. We soon forget how people have blessed us but we remember deeply the offences that people have caused.

When I was a child, my dad restored cars. He had a pre-WWII Simca. The neighbors across the street objected to the fact that he worked on it in our driveway. One evening they egged our front yard with special attention to the car. My father never forgave the offence but my mother let it go and treated them as if they had done nothing.

Did she forget what they had done? No, she made the choice to let it go and not hold it against them. God has told us to put up with one another and forgive. We are to forgive just like Christ forgave us. Does Christ know the sinful things we have done? Of course He does, yet He chooses to forgive us. He went to Calvary and shed His blood that He might forgive us.

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as god for Christ's sake has forgiven you.—Ephesians 4: 32