



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

April 29, 2018

FORGIVE & FORGET

The phrase “forgive and forget” has been in the English language for a long time. An older member of the church once commented to me concerning forgiving and forgetting. “I don’t know which is harder to do!” As difficult as they are for us humans to do – do them we must if we are to have forgiveness from our Father in heaven (**Matthew 6:15**).

Forgiveness in the original language of the Bible has the connotation of “to send away.” For example in **Micah 7:19** we read that God will “*cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.*” When God forgives us, He sends our sins (and the guilt of them) so far away; they can never be reached again. Truly God is the epitome of “forgive and forget.”

But I wish to examine the phrase “forgive and forget” from another angle. I noticed that inside the words “forgive” and “forget” are the words “give” and “get.” In other words, to truly get the benefits that forgiveness can bring, we must first give something.

For those of us desiring the forgiveness of another, we need to give that person a truly repentant attitude and lifestyle (**Matthew 3:8**). Then and only then will we get reconciliation with our brother or sister in Christ.

For those of us needing to forgive another, we need to give an attitude of compassion and willingness to work out/forget our differences toward the one who has wronged us (**Matthew 5:23-24**). Only then will we get harmony with our brother or sister in Christ. As a wise person once noted, we may not be able to totally forget that we were wronged, but we can act like it never happened.

The Christians at Corinth were to forgive a brother who obviously had repented. Paul writes to them “*you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him*” (**II Corinthians 2:7-8**). The wayward brother was giving to them, and now they were to give as well. They were to confirm their love once again for him by forgiving and comforting him. All involved would benefit from this.

So let’s always remember to “forgive and forget.” And let’s always remember that to get, we must first give.

Edd Sterchi

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Worship Service 6 pm

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BRING THOSE BABIES TO CHURCH

My heart goes out to the parents of small children. I know firsthand the kind of problems they face (and my wife even better.) Training up a toddler in the way he should go is a constant job, a continuous battle, a seven-day-a-week task, not to mention an awesome responsibility. After six days of their whining chorus at home and three hours of embarrassment while shopping, the last thing some young mothers want to face is an hour of agony and humiliation at church.

Many a young mother has asked herself, "Why do I keep bringing them to church?" As she enters the auditorium she utters a silent prayer that the kids will be good and the sermon short. The service begins. While mother is picking up toys, drying eyes, wiping noses, swatting, scolding, going out, coming in, and trying to sing, listen, and pray, the toddler is pouring juice on her dress and pulling a button off the man serving communion. To the toddler, church is an exciting adventure. Song books are a challenge to take, stuffed toys make great missiles to launch over four or five rows, and the collection plate would make a great hat. Young parents take heart! Let me assure you of six things.

1. Your children do not disturb others nearly as much as you think they do.
2. If people without children are determined to sit at the back (where most small children sit) then they deserve any distraction they get.
3. Most people really do understand your plight and remember back to the days when their children were infants and toddlers.
4. Through proper discipline and early training your children will soon learn how to behave properly. When they do begin to show signs of improvement, move down closer to the front where you and your children will feel a part of the worship.
5. Remember that you are both wanted and needed in the worship service.
6. Have faith that the hand, which now hurls crayons, will one day spread the seed of the Kingdom.

Mike Schneider