

Forgiveness

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We are often surprised by an act of forgiveness that makes the news. For example, not long ago, a mother was on television, being interviewed about her son's murder. During the segment, she said that she forgave the perpetrator and that she hopes he finds peace with the Lord.

For many people, to do this would be an impossible task. How could someone possibly forgive such a thing? But the reality is somewhat different. Without forgiveness, the criminal might experience guilt, or he might not. That is his problem to deal with. With forgiveness, he has a better chance of achieving remorse, and that is to his benefit.

The mother, on the other hand, has a choice of carrying around hatred for the rest of her life or relieving herself of that burden by forgiving the criminal. Yes, hatred is a burden to be dealt with. It will wear you down and smother the good things that happen in your life.

The original transgression need not be a capital offense either. It might be something as simple as failing to live up to a personal responsibility or commitment. While the reaction might be classified as a grudge instead of hatred, the two are found along the same emotional scale.

The truth is, however, that not forgiving someone for a transgression, large or small, can wear on the soul. It doesn't really matter if the original transgression was an accidental one or a purposeful one. Hanging onto the negativity will affect your character and your future.

Certainly, she can leave the overall outcome up to God, but she can restore her emotional stability and security by this simple act. Of course, it must be genuine to be effective and that will vary with the individual offering forgiveness.