

Pentecost Sunday Forgiveness

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;
For those whose sins you retain, they are retained;

The whole understanding of the forgiveness of sins is something which unless we are careful can get stuck in a child like simplicity.

However the reality is complex and difficult at time.

As Christians we are obliged to forgive.

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The expression of forgiveness however can take many different forms.

The presence of Gods Holy Spirit as a result of our attempts at forgiveness is a sort of proof that we have got it correct, or are at least on the right track.

Because where there is the presence of the Holy Spirit there is life.

Forgiveness should create liberty and life.

He could not forgive himself.
He could not forgive himself.

Those around him recognised that he was human and capable of failure.
Those around him loved him for what he was, and not for what he believed he should be.

He did not have that vision
all he could see was his own failings.

This ironically meant that his faults increased.
It meant that he focused on the negative beating himself up for things that he could do nothing about.

It meant that he had a reason and a justification for bad behaviour. Not only did he accept it as his fallen nature, and inevitable, he also used it as a validation for mournful self pity.

His inability to forgive himself taught him to hate himself.
Then from this position of failure to hate the world.

Come Holy Spirit

Learn to forgive yourself slowly and graciously.

If you are not the person you dreamed of being in your youth then look around you
neither is anyone else.
Learn to love yourself.

Then there will be the freedom for real growth.
Then we can again begin to live.
She talked about forgiveness but what she actually meant was control.
She was losing control completely, and her fear and the inability to be the perfect
parent was one element in this war of independence.

So she would forgive on a regular basis and hope that she had paid the price that
would return everything to how it had been.
She would begin again to provide the money, and draw the child back in to her sphere
of influence.
Ironically then facilitating the very situations that caused the pain and bled the
relationship.

Come Holy Spirit.

Learn to forgive those close to you
with the freedom of faith.

If they are not the person you dreamed of them being
when you held them in your arms
then look around
thankfully all parents share your fate.
Learn to love yourself.

For those prepared to listen
the Holy Spirit will teach how to forgive slowly and graciously.

Then there will be the freedom for real growth.
Then we can begin to live.

They spent most of their time moaning.

If it was not the government it was the management of BLACKBURN F.C.

The Doctors.
The Forman.
The Bishop.
The cost of petrol.
The kids playing football on the street.
The lack of choice on TV.
The rain
The heat
The way things are today.

Thus behind this barricade of despondency
it was easy to hide from the challenges of life.

Come Holy Spirit.

Learn to forgive the world slowly and graciously.

For those prepared to listen
the Holy Spirit will teach how to forgive the world
slowly and graciously.

Then there will be the freedom for real growth.
Then we can begin to live.

Receive the Holy Spirit

For those whose sins you forgive they are forgiven.

For those whose sins you retain, they are retained

and they will trap you.