

Finding Fault

Has somebody hurt you? Are you carrying around a grudge because of what someone did to you that brought unhappiness or caused you pain or misfortune? Such a reaction is a natural human tendency.

Writing on this subject in *Let God Love You*, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie – a Presbyterian minister who served as Chaplain of the United States Senate from the 104th through the 107th Congresses (1995 – 2003) – had this to say:

“The hardest time to be gentle is when we know we are right and someone else is obviously dead wrong. But the greatest temptation for most of us is when someone has failed us and has admitted it, and their destiny or happiness is in our hands. We hold the power to give or refuse a blessing.

“Recently, a dear friend hurt me in both word and action. Each time we met ... I almost began to enjoy the leverage of being the offended one. His first overtures of restitution were resisted because of the gravity of the judgment I had made. He had taken a key idea I had shared with him in confidence and had developed it as his own before I had a chance to use it. The plagiarism of ideas had been coupled with the use of some of my written material, reproduced under his name ... The most difficult thing was to surrender my indignation and work through my hurt.

“Finally, the Lord got me where He wanted me ... His word to me was clear and undeniable, ‘Lloyd, why is it so important to you who gets the credit, just so My work gets done?’ I gave up my right to be what only God could be as this man’s judge and savior. The gentle attitude began to flow.”

Dr. Ogilvie is right on. When we withhold forgiveness, it not only hurts the person we don’t want to forgive, it hurts us. Our creativity and joy in life are stifled. When we forgive, we release peace and restoration to the forgiven, and to ourselves.

Therefore you are without excuse, every man of you who passes judgment, for in that you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things (Romans 2:1).

– Beecher Hunter