

Sermon on the Mount: Forgiveness – Letting It Go

Colossians 3:12-17; Matthew 6:9-15; 18:21-22

Dr. David Renwick

January 23, 2022

National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC

"I have no problem loving humankind. I have no problem loving people in general. It's just particular people that I can't stand."

Edna St. Vincent Millay (adapted from lines in Dostoevsky's The Brothers Karamazov).

FOUR FOUNDATIONS FOR FORGIVENESS . .

The Belief that

1. We Ourselves are Sinners.

"All of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

- All of us! Without fail! Every single one of us! All in the same boat!
- It is not our opinion of ourselves that defines who we are.
- It is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ that defines who we are.

2. Despite our Sin we are loved.

"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son" (John 3:16).

- God loves not just the world in general but you and me in particular.

3. God's justice will ultimately prevail and "sort things out"

"Jesus committed no sin and no deceit was found in his mouth. When he was abused, he did not return abuse. When he suffered, he did not threaten but he entrusted himself to the One who judges justly." (1Peter 2:23)

- This is not a reason for lack of concern for justice (this is God's passion and we must share it).
- But it is a reason not to pursue a self-righteous justice that unintentionally makes us cruel or unjust too.

4. There is a reason for the perpetration of that 'evil action' against us, more often than we at first can see

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34)

- Understanding another does not excuse them, but it does provide a foundation from which we might just find the power to forgive them.
- Gary Chapman, The Five Love Languages
 1. words of affirmation
 2. acts of service
 3. quality time
 4. giving of gifts
 5. physical touch

2022 Slate of Nominees

Elder Class of 2024



***Laurie Brunner**

Elders Class of 2023

Dennis Burgart

David Detlor

*Scott Jung

*Peggy Lewis

Ann May

Jennifer Richwine

Lucille Smiley

Elders Class of 2024

*Peter Hogge

*Barbara Mitchell

David Moore

*John Neely

*Evangeline Paschal

*Mary Jo Pera

*Tisha Schestopol

Elders Class of 2025

*Trevor Blow

*Jim Bridgman

Betty Elliott

*John Forlines

*Mark Goodin

May Yamate

** As per congregational policy over 1/3 of Session should have the skills and/or experiences in finance, business, legal, or property matters.*

Congregational Nominating Committee Class of 2024



Annette Burgart



Scott Herndon



Serge Nya-Wandja

Current Congregational Nominating Committee

Chair – Jim Bridgeman

Members – 2022– Grant Franke, Scott Herndon, Janice Sessing

2023- Laura Atchison, Lewrene Glaser, Robert Levy