



Unusual Christian Qualities



Forgiveness

We Love It, Except When We Don't

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➤ A passage about the joy of forgiveness:

Psalm 32:1-2

¹ How blessed is he whose
transgression is forgiven,
Whose sin is covered!

² How blessed is the man to whom the
LORD does not impute iniquity,
And in whose spirit there is no deceit

We Love It, Except When We Don't

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➤ Some passages about the responsibility of forgiveness:

Matthew 6:14-15

¹⁴ For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

Ephesians 4:32

³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Colossians 3:13

¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

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➤ Some amazing examples for us:

Luke 23:33-34

³³ When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left.

³⁴ But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”

Acts 7:59-60

⁵⁹ They went on stoning Stephen as he called on *the Lord* and said, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!”

⁶⁰ Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!” Having said this, he fell asleep.

Forgiving and “Winning”

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1) We “win” because we give it to God.

1 Peter 2:21-23

21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;

1 Peter 2:21-23

²³ and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

Forgiving and “Winning”

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➤ We talk to Him about it.

Psalm 13

² How long shall I take counsel in my
soul,
Having sorrow in my heart all the day?
How long will my enemy be exalted
over me?

Psalm 13

⁵ But I have trusted in Your
lovingkindness;

My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

⁶ I will sing to the LORD,

Because He has dealt bountifully with
me.

Forgiving and “Winning”

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➤ We leave vengeance decisions to Him.

1 Peter 2:21-23

²³ and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

Romans 12:17-19

¹⁷ Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

¹⁹ Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath *of God*, for it is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord.

Forgiving and “Winning”

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2) We “win” because we overcome
evil with good.

Romans 12:21

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

How to Start Doing Better



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➤ Remember they are souls.

Jonah 4

11 Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know *the difference* between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?”

2 Corinthians 5:10

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

How to Start Doing Better



➤ Pray for them, and for you.

Matthew 5:43-48

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said,
‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate
your enemy.’

⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies
and pray for those who persecute you,

Matthew 5:43-48

⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous.

Matthew 5:43-48

⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

⁴⁷ If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing *than others*? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

Matthew 5:43-48

⁴⁸ Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

How to Start Doing Better



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➤ Do good toward them.

Romans 12:20-21

20 “BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD.”

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.



Genesis 33:10

¹⁰ Jacob said, “No, please, if now I have found favor in your sight, then take my present from my hand, for I see your face as one sees the face of God, and you have received me favorably.



May our forgiving spirits show
people the “face of God.”