

*Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.* Luke 23:34

We all experience seasons of relative ease, times when all is well. However, most of us have experienced other times that were very hurtful. *“How could he or she do that?”* It’s a question every tongue will utter in heavier times when our delicate soul (our mind, will and emotions) want to resist overriding the righteousness of the Holy Spirit as we try to be the Christ followers we thought we were. That’s when that civil war we thought we had conquered begins or continues to control our attitude. Also read: *“Body, Soul & Spirit”* article.

James refers to that war in verse 1:21 and Paul in Romans 7:15, the war we thought was settled when Christ’s Spirit merged with ours to allow experiencing His wonderful wisdom and counsel and make us the Holy ones we thought we had become just a short time earlier.

While there is such a thing as righteous or justified anger, it must never become destructive or be allowed to obstruct God’s Holy Spirit from working in us and through us. Vengeance must stay with God alone – besides, Scripture also reminds us that being kind and forgiving is like heaping hot coals upon the heads of those who offend us. Think about what it says in Proverbs 25:22.

If the early history of the one who has offended is revealed, it will almost always help us understand their inappropriate behavior. We may then be able to realize that our behavior might not have been any better under the same circumstances. We are all victims of the fallen nature of humanity (Genesis 3:6).

Let’s face the fact that life is not fair and almost always, the offender has been a victim during earlier times. We live in a cause and effect world. Childhood experiences will almost always establish adult behavior habits in all of us, either good or bad.

We must always remember, agape type “love” is a purpose driven verb, not just an emotional feeling. When we totally comprehend this we will then be able to genuinely love and better understand those we are not able to like emotionally, while remaining biblically obedient. It has been frequently said, emotions are wonderful servants. However, they become very destructive when we allow them to be masters in our behavior and choices.

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