

Alpha Counseling Service
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Dear Friends,

The sacred Easter season is approaching and as I reread the story of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and the social and religious conflict that was going on all around Him I keep running parallels to the conflict swirling in our present day world. I have a unique place to watch our world as it spins. Not everyone would like my view of the sin, conflict, and pain that I get to see but it is where God has placed Debi and me and to be honest without His gifts we wouldn't be able to handle it either. It is sad to say but my perspective is that Christians seem to be greatly influenced by the broken world. I see them struggling to practice Christian values in a consistent manner. As I get to know some folks I find they have been in church for years and still have little Bible knowledge. They apply secular 'wisdom' to situations that the Bible clearly gives valuable advice and if followed would have much better results. On several occasions recently I have given a handout, to the folks I just mentioned, with the idea of giving something simple but helpful to guide their journey in this confusing world.

People are often unreasonable and self-centered.
FORGIVE them anyway!
If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives.
Be KIND anyway!
If you are honest, people may cheat you.
Be HONEST anyway!
If you find happiness, people may be jealous.
Be HAPPY anyway!
The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.
Do GOOD anyway!
Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough.
Give YOUR BEST anyway!
In the end, it is between you and HIM not you and them!
By Mother Teresa

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

In the Blackaby's devotional Experiencing God Day By Day they write "Never take the righteousness God has given you for granted. Never take the forgiveness of your sin lightly. It cost God a terrible price in order to forgive you and make you righteous. Walk in a manner worthy of the righteousness He has given you."

God Bless you! Richard