

Monday 10th August 2020

John 13: 35

By this all people will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.

If we have love for one another, we know that when we do wrong by someone, that we should apologise. However, some of us find it hard to say, 'I'm sorry.' For others an apology slips off their tongues like butter, but it is not meant. If we genuinely mean these words they will sound right and be the perfect way to bring a problem to an end and bring balance back to a relationship.

The words 'I'm sorry' are among the most important in our lives. Saying them does not make us weak; on the contrary, having the humility to say these words makes our character stronger. Others will respect us for them. They bring a sense of freedom and relief to the person saying them and to the one receiving them.

If we find it difficult to apologise, we need to ask God to change us and teach us to do this in a meaningful way. It is important to admit when we have wronged another person and failed them. Saying 'I'm sorry' is our way of asking for forgiveness. When we do wrong by another person, we also do wrong by God, the God who loves us and who always forgives us when we seek His forgiveness. When we say, 'I'm sorry,' we are showing our love for God.

Genuine forgiveness and reconciliation are two-person transactions. When we apologise, we are accepting responsibility for our actions or words. We are seeking to make amends with the person we have offended. If we are genuine in our apology, it opens the door for forgiveness and reconciliation. We are then in a position when we may enhance our relationship. Without an apology the offence creates a barrier with the party involved and the relationship is likely to be the worse for it. We should not give an empty apology. In doing that, we are likely to cause even more harm. Seek forgiveness with a heartfelt apology. When we are truly repentant, we will grow as a result of our mistakes.

Prayer: Gracious God, let us always remember how important an apology is to someone whom we have wronged, to God and to ourselves. When we say, 'I'm sorry,' let the words come from the heart, not just the mouth. Let us never forget that You will forgive us and love us when we come to you with our wrong-doing.

Amen.

