

## Forgiveness and Enabling

The tension between forgiveness and enabling is no more pronounced than in the family setting. Many family members are torn between the two, sometimes at a loss on what to do. Therefore, on this feast day of the Holy Family, I'd like to share with you the difference between the two based on Christian principles.

Through the Parable of the Prodigal Son, the bible teaches that forgiveness is about extending grace. There is hardly any question that the father was wronged, or even betrayed, by his son's actions, but rather than show vindictiveness, the father extended grace and mercy, especially when his son has learned his lesson the hard way – living in dire poverty after squandering his father's money.

Why is it so important to forgive? Because the person who benefits the most is the forgiver. There is a saying: "Resentment is like drinking poison while wishing the other person to die." You might say, "I resent just a little bit, I never wish the other person to die." Well, that's like drinking a little poison each and every day that you harbor that "little bit" of resentment. In addition, forgiving someone does not necessarily mean condoning the wrongdoing, especially when the offender has learned his lesson and repented.

On the other hand, enabling is when we shield someone from the consequences of their actions; it encourages destructive behavior, and it blocks them from developing appropriate behavior and good morals. Whenever we enable someone to do wrong and commit sin, we ultimately end up pleasing them over God.

Enabling is when we cover up other people's sins, or look away when we see someone doing something wrong. In the book of the prophet Ezekiel, God calls believers to warn the wicked, for we are held accountable for their spiritual death: "When I say to the wicked, 'You wicked, you must die,' and you do not speak up to warn the wicked about their ways, they shall die in their sins, but I will hold you responsible for their blood. If, however, you warn the wicked to turn from their ways,

but they do not, then they shall die in their sins, but you shall save your life." (Ezekiel 33:7-9)



People need discipline for spiritual growth: sometimes, discipline can be a hard and painful process, but it is necessary because it builds up righteousness in a person. The Letter to the Galatians give a stern warning: "Make no mistake: God is not mocked, for a person will reap only what he sows, because the one who sows for his flesh will reap corruption from the flesh, but the one who sows for the spirit will reap eternal life from the spirit." (Gal 6:7-8)

True love involves not only compassion, but an equal amount of firmness in setting boundaries and making people accountable for their actions. If we really love someone, we will want what is best for them based on Christian principles. We must speak the truth,

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even if we may no longer be liked by others. The key takeaway is this: true love is wise and courageous; it forgives freely but it doesn't facilitate sin. It provides grace to help someone repent, but not a blindfold to prevent them from knowing the difference between right and wrong.

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fr. Bill wishes to thank all the volunteers who made our Christmas Mass and program a memorable experience for all our parishioners and guests. Your hard work is greatly appreciated!

Attention children and parents: We are still on Christmas break! We will not have Sunday School class on Sunday!

The 2026 Chinese liturgical calendars are still available for \$5 a copy. Please pick a copy for your home and give a copy to a friend or relative.

We will celebrate Chinese New Year on Feb. 15, 2026 in lieu of 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

The 10th year anniversary of the dedication of our church will be on November 19, 2027. We would like all church members to have their picture taken for the 10th year anniversary commemorative parish book. Please sign up with Tommy Puk.



Prayer List: Xie Yannong, Bian Meiyi, Chen Kun, Chen Shupeng, Ni Yufang, Lydia Chen, David Wang, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing and Xu Taicheng.

Mass Schedule	Confessions	Bible Study
Sundays 10:30 AM (Chinese)	Sundays 9:00-9:30 AM	Wednesdays 10:00 AM (Chinese)
Sundays 2:00 PM (English)	Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 PM	Mondays 6:00 PM (English)
	By Appointment	
Mondays 12:00 PM (English)		<b>Eucharistic Adoration</b>
Tuesdays 12:00 PM (English)	<b>Anointing of the Sick</b>	Sundays 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Wednesdays 12:00 PM (Chinese)	First Sundays after 10:30 AM Mass	Tuesdays 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Fridays 12:00 PM (English)		
First Friday 7:00 PM (English)		
First Saturday 10:00 AM (Chinese)		