

## Advice for Christians:

### Forgiveness and Acceptance

On the morning of Monday, October 2, 2006, a gunman took hostages, eventually he shot ten girls (aged 7–13) and committed suicide shortly after at West Nickel Mines School, a one-room Amish schoolhouse in Nickel Mines, a village in Bart Township of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Out of the ten girls shot, five were fatally wounded. Police reported that the gunman was Charles Carl Roberts, a 32-year-old man, a married father of three.

The gruesome depths of this crime are hard for any community to grasp, especially for the Amish—who live such a secluded and peaceful life, removed even from the everyday depictions of violence on TV. When violence suddenly pierced the peaceful Amish, how did they respond? They responded with forgiveness, and love. The Amish people forgave Charles Carl Roberts for the deeds he had done. To his family they gave comfort and condolences.

I sometimes find forgiving difficult at times, and accepting it is often even more difficult. When peers put me down, it is hard to forgive and accept. Holding grudges and resentment do not make an individual stronger, and certainly not wiser. Forgiving the very ones who injured me physically and spiritually encouraged me to learn from their transgressions; I attempt to refrain from committing those same acts to the others who caused me pain. I am saddened by callous deeds and the ignorance portrayed by people unwilling to forgive one another. When I find myself close to hurting others, a voice within me asks whether I can, in good conscience, give in and inflict the hurt or follow the our Lord's will?

In every instance where I choose to forgive my tormentor, I believe I grow stronger, and appreciate what God, in sacrificing his own son, Jesus, wanted us to learn. Christ said as he hung dying on the cross..., "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." The Amish people set an example for the world. Rather than display any anger and hostility toward the killer's family, they offered condolences and forgiveness. They showed us that in order to move on and heal, a Christian must find peace within himself and forgiveness is that first step toward healing.

How could the Amish endure such an atrocity and then turn around to forgive? All they did was purely obeying the command: "...forgive each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you." Surely if God has granted us the powerful grace to forgive, shouldn't we practice it? Hasn't he forgiven countless acts of sin from us?

Jesus sacrificed himself to save us from our sins' consequences and the devil's power. While it's still hard to forgive, we can place our trust in God who will someday judge all the wrongs in the world. Phillip Yancey wrote, "Forgiveness is another way of admitting, I'm human, I make mistakes, I want to be granted that privilege, and so I grant you that privilege."

God's love and grace is the power behind forgiveness, granting us the unconditional power to forgive others, the power to overcome resentment, the power to redeem relationships and show God's love to a hurting world. Perhaps the most powerful outcome of forgiveness is that it changes and enables us to become more Christ-like.

## Advice for Christians

My friend was having problems with all the homework that he had to do for next week. During recess, he asked me how to “keep it together” when things go wrong, since he knew that I give people advice sometimes. I told him that he should give his troubles to God, and let Him do the rest. Christians should always follow Christ in their life. Life as a Christian may be harder in many ways, but it’s worth it because we get to see the Lord when he calls for us.

When I was in a fourth grade, I had to do an assignment about Hawaiian Transportation. This stressed me out because I thought I wouldn’t be able to finish it. One night my dad told me that worrying wouldn’t help me at all; it’ll just give me a heart attack. Give my stress to God, and He will do the rest. That really helped me a lot in my life, even though it was just three years ago. When I finished that report, I felt so much better and more relieved.

Every Christian has an obstacle in his Christian life. He can’t do it alone, so that means he needs help. He can’t have help from another person, because that other person will hurt him more. Since he can’t rely on man, animal, plant, mineral, or anything else, he needs God to help him in the obstacle course. Deuteronomy 8:3b says, “To teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”

Last night I saw a video that showed a crazy lady playing with stuffed cats. She was, seriously, rubbing her armpits with the cats’ heads, she was spraying the cats like she was washing them or something, she was throwing them everywhere like nothing, and she even tried feeding the cats. If Jesus wasn’t who he said he was, then the crazy cat lady should be our Savior. I don’t know about you, but I don’t want to be treated like dirt, or in this case cats, by being thrown everywhere, sprayed, and have my being rubbed against someone’s foul smelling armpits. It’s a good thing that Jesus really did die for our sins instead of the crazy cat lady. When you repent of your sins, God will just get rid of it by forgiving and forgetting. If you gave your sins to the crazy cat lady, she will just use her cats to make fun of you for what you just did.

You will learn a lot about God and your Christian walk during your life. Christians should always follow Christ in their life. Read your Bible everyday. You can learn about how the people in the Bible stayed with God during their lives as a follower of Him. Then you’ll be able to know how to solve your problems in life.

## Advice To Christians

Jesus Christ became important in my life at the age of 9 years old. I had a warm, overwhelming feeling come over me, and I knew I needed to accept Jesus as my personal Savior. Every individual needs to accept Jesus as his or her Savior. If they do not, they could face great judgment one day

As a young child, I attended church with my parents. I always remember hearing how much Jesus loved me, and how grateful we were for all His blessings. Along with hearing these great words of advice, I remember hearing you need to accept Jesus as your personal Savior. My parents would pray that someday I would accept Christ into my heart. I also recall hearing that if you don't accept Christ you could die and you would go to hell if you have not accepted Christ. As a young child, I could only imagine hell with a red devil with a pitchfork and fire all around me. I knew I did not want to go there.

I believe through the prayers of my parents and attending Church to learn God's word. I learned of His sacrifice of His son, Jesus on the cross for me. I knew needed to be saved. It became so real when I could actually see Jesus on that cross dying for you and me. As I grew older, the vision has become clearer, showing Jesus' sacrifice and how much He loves me. Still today, so many people see and hear the same words and visions, yet they choose to deny Him.

In the Book of Romans 1:16, God's word explains to us the power of God. Salvation is for everyone who believes. Jesus said, "If anyone calls upon my name they shall be saved." Jesus invites you to accept Him in many ways. We hear God's Word every Wednesday in Chapel and everyday in our classes. My little chapel buddy hears God's Word in Chapel and is still wondering where is God? He believes that Jesus is in the clouds, but he says, "I can't see Him!" God invites this small young Spirit to accept Him and to believe in Him, just like I have done. I can help my chapel buddy by helping explain to him that Jesus is everywhere. Whether we see Him or not, His presence is always with us. God's invitation to accept Him is offered everyday if we are just willing to hear the call.

Being a Christian, I still have faults and bad habits. Through constant prayer for guidance, strength, and forgiveness, I believe God will forgive me, strengthen, and guide me. He will help mold me to be a better person everyday, everyday I'm willing to listen and obey God's Word. I can become a more pleasing servant to Him and an example to my friends. God is a just and faithful God to his believers. I believe God is always going to be there. Whether I have not-so-good days, or when I have great days, God will always be there of me to help me to be the best I can be for Him.

As a believer in Christ Jesus, I believe that everyone has a choice to accept Jesus as his or her personal Savior. Everyone on this planet has heard the words of Jesus' love. Every individual needs to accept Jesus as his or her Savior. Yet they choose not to, and they could face great judgment. If we all could be an example of Christ to all those around us, I believe the people of this world might be saved. We could live in a Godly world, and no one would have to meet great judgment one day.