



## Forgive Us

We have lost the art of disagreeing respectfully. We have lost the art of disagreeing and remaining friends. God forgive us such selfishness.

We too often consider our issues and our goals more important than people. Then we hurt people in the pursuit of our goals,

blame them for being hurt, and expect them to 'get over it'. We further expect they will celebrate how 'right' we were to hurt them and thank them for the pain we cause. . . God forgive us for such arrogance.

We have forgotten that a leader has authority over others only because the community grants it so a leader can serve for the good of everyone. Leaders who treat authority as 'their right', use authority for their own ends, to gain power over others, or to enrich themselves have abused the trust the community has placed in them. This is especially true when the leader claims authority in matters of faith. God forgive us when we abuse the trust and faith of others.

We have also forgotten that seeking to understand motives and seeking truth are not crimes. Hiding truth, attacking and vilifying those we disagree with, and spreading misinformation about them or the situation we are in is wrong. So are back room deals and parking lot decision making that affect people's lives without their participation or excluding those responsible for making such decisions to ensure we get our way. God forgive us for such deceitful conduct.

We are too susceptible to supporting someone without question or turning a blind eye to their sins and deceptions if they will do one thing we want done or because they will maintain our privileges over others. God, forgive us for such blind loyalty and selfish stubbornness.

### ***This week pray for:***

The On-going Mis-treatment of Children and parents by immigration authorities at The U.S. Border. Hundreds of children taken from their parents still have not been returned to them.

Pray for those who are in prison for their beliefs and for those in prison or persecuted for their efforts to report on genocide and other human rights abuses around the world.

These include reporters in Myanmar, political opposition leaders in Cambodia and Russia as well as those working for change in Central America and elsewhere.



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