

Day 20

Handle with Kid Gloves

Galatians 6:1-10

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Galatians 6:1

“This needs to be treated with kid gloves.” It is a comment often made when delicate situations or difficult circumstances require our attention. The purpose of this phrase is to encourage someone to use special care. When dealing with relationships it can mean not to prejudge or perhaps draw improper conclusions without complete information.

Restoring an individual through confrontation is never an easy task. If the person restoring makes assumptions or quick judgments, conversation shuts down. The matter requires a kid glove approach.

Jesus restores with a kid glove approach. As he interacted with individual sinners, Christ’s approach was often marked with compassion, understanding, and a willingness to teach and engage the individual caught in sin. When someone was convicted and repented of his sin, Jesus was bold to proclaim: “Your faith has saved you. Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace.”

To deal with our sin, however, he did more than just use kid gloves. He completely took on the form of a human being with flesh and blood so that he could personally face the punishment of our sin for us.

The purpose of confronting those ensnared in sin is restoration and reconciliation in Jesus Christ. Taking the gentle approach as modeled by our Savior gives us the example to follow. How much more would we benefit by taking the approach of our Lord and Savior by confronting sinful behavior with kid gloves?

O Lord Jesus Christ, your gentle and caring approach led many individuals to confess their sins and trust in your saving work. Teach me daily to use a kid glove approach in confronting and restoring others, through announcing our forgiveness from you. Amen.

*Adapted from Forgiven to Forgive - 6 Weeks of Daily Devotions
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Write or type your answers. Writing your answers helps you to meditate more deeply on the question, organize your thoughts, and provide a visible way for you to review and reflect on how this devotion applies to your specific situation.

1. After you have considered your own contribution to this conflict (e.g., get the log out of your own eye; see Devotion for Day 15), identify how the other person contributed to this conflict?
2. Write down some specific *steps* that you can take to help restore this person gently.
3. Write down specific *words* that you can say to bring about restoration. Include not only how you have been hurt, but how Christ died for that sin and how you are preparing to forgive as Christ has forgiven you.
4. Pray the prayer “For Approaching Someone in Conflict with Me” on the last page of the booklet *Forgiven to Forgive*.