

Day 4

Conflict an Opportunity?

1 Peter 3:8-22

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15

In his Christian high school, Alex learned that conflict provides three opportunities: glorify God, serve others, and grow to be like Christ. He was given an assignment to recognize the opportunities in a future conflict and to write about what happened.

Alex reported that during a dinner date, the waitress dropped his plate on the floor. Immediately she apologized and began to clean up. Alex simply responded, "I forgive you."

The waitress was taken aback: "Most people just get angry and furious with me when this happens. Why aren't you mad?"

"I mess up a lot, and my God forgives me. God would not want me to be angry and upset with you."

Alex later wrote, "I couldn't believe what I was saying right there in the restaurant. And it was so easy!" The waitress brought him a new order, told him his meal was free, and then said that he had made her day. Alex reflected, "So I think I glorified God by not getting upset." More than that, he gave witness to God's forgiveness, served all who heard him, and grew more like Christ.

Like Alex, we fail to live up to God's standards. We're sinners to the core, and we sin daily. But God put his wrath and anger on Jesus, reconciling us to himself. God is not angry with us, but forgives us. So we can also say, "I forgive you." Why? Because God forgives us!

Lord Jesus, forgive me for my failings. Open my eyes to recognize the opportunities in my conflicts. Give me the wisdom and courage to glorify you, serve others, and grow more like you. In your name I pray. 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. Begin by praying the prayer at the end of the devotion.
2. Name at least three ways that you can respond to this conflict in a way that will glorify God.
3. Identify at least 4 different people or groups of people that you can serve in this conflict.
4. Write how you can grow to be more like Christ through your response to this conflict.