

50 Commands of Christ - 7 - (#30-32)

30. Do not despise little ones—*Matthew 18:10.*

Why is it important to teach children about God from the time they are very small?

Are guardian angels mainly for children or are they for all of God's people? *Psalm 34:7, Psalm 91:11, Hebrews 1:14.*

What do you believe about angels? What are some functions of angels? Are there many mentions of angels in the Bible?

31. Go to Christians who offend you—*Matthew 18:15, Galatians 6:1.*

What did Jesus set forth as the first step in resolving a conflict? Is this what you generally do?

Why is it best to resolve conflicts quickly? In private?

What does Jesus say to do if someone will not listen to you?—*Matthew 18:16-17*

32. Forgive offenders—*Matthew 18:21-22, Proverbs 19:11*

How often did Jesus say we must forgive someone who offends us?

How likely are you to forgive someone three or four times for the same thing?

In what way has God shown mercy in forgiving our sins? If God is so willing to forgive us, why are we often unwilling to forgive others?

What are the Godly consequences of forgiving and not forgiving? *Matthew 6:14-15.*

Do we sometimes forgive with strings attached?

So was Paul Kersey (Charles Bronson) wrong to seek revenge against the thugs that raped his daughter and killed his wife in *Death Wish*? Is Lee Child's Jack Reacher really marching down the wrong road? *Romans 12:17-19*

30. Do not despise little ones

Matthew 18:10 - Beware that you don't look down on any of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels are always in the presence of my heavenly Father.

Psalm 34:7 - For the angel of the Lord is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him.

Psalm 91:11 - For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go.

Hebrews 1:14 - Therefore, angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation.

Angels are mentioned 390 times in the Bible. Nave's Topical Bible has 4 pages of references about angels. It is easily a topic for many weeks of study. Some functions: guard the way of the tree of life (Gen 3:24), Law given by (Acts 7:53, Gal 3:19), medium of revelation to prophets (2 Kings 1:15, Dan 4:13-17, 8:19, Zech 1:9-11, announces birth of Samson, John the Baptist, Jesus, warns Joseph to escape to Egypt (Matt 2:13), minister to Jesus after the temptation (Matt 4:11), present at the tomb of Jesus and at the ascension (Acts 1:11), will be with Christ at the second coming (Matt 25:31), ministers to the righteous (Gen 16:7), prepare the way for the Lord (Ex 23:20), defeats enemies, open prison doors (Acts 5:19-20, 12:7), execute judgement on the wicked (Gen 19:1, 2 Sam 24:16, 2 Kings 19:35, Acts 12:23, Rev 9:15).

31. Go to Christians who offend you

Matthew 18:15 - If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.

Galatians 6:1 - Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.

The NIV Study Bible opines that it is best to resolve conflicts in private “to protect the brother from harm caused by gossip.” We find another reason in Leviticus 19:17 - Do not nurse hatred in your heart for any of your relatives [brothers]. Confront people directly so you will not be held guilty for their sin. Also in 1 John 2:9 - If anyone claims, “I am living in the light,” but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is still living in darkness.

Matthew 18:16-17 - ¹⁶ But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

32. Forgive offenders

Matthew 18:21-22 - ²¹ Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?"

²² "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven! [Some translations: seventy-seven.] The number was meant to be very large; actually Jesus said you must forgive how ever many times you are offended (infinite).

Proverbs 19:11 - Sensible people control their temper; they earn respect by overlooking wrongs.

Matthew 6:14-15 - ¹⁴ "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Romans 12:17-19 - ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. [NIV]

Bible quotes are NLT unless otherwise noted.