

## Hebrews 13:5

***Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."***

Me and my wife have my three teenage kids living with us in our home, and if you have raised teenage kids or if you are about to, you know that even though they think they know it all and can do no wrong, we know better than that.

Even we were all teenagers at one time. For me it's been so long I barely remember it. But we can probably all remember how we thought we knew it all, and said those famous words, *"I'll never be like my parents"* But then we grew up and find out that we are like our parents, or like any parents if you think about it, because parents will correct their children, be it teenagers, or grade school kids or toddlers or even those who have grown. And we do so because we love them, not because we are like our parents, but if you think about it, it is because we are like our Heavenly Father, who corrects us, because He loves us.

† **Hebrews 12:7 (NLT2)** *As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father?*

But even though my wife and I will correct our teenage kids, one thing we will never say to them is, *"I never want anything to do with you, get out of our life and never come back."* Now there may have been times the kids felt like we were about to say that, or we felt like our parents would say it to us, but we never would, because we love them. But even when you were reading that, you were probably wondering, *"Who would ever say such a thing to their kids?"* and the answer would be, pretty much no one, unless you are a jerk or a bad parent.

But if you are asking who would say such a thing, have you ever sinned so much or so badly that you thought God would say that to you?

(Warning: Here's an ouch moment coming up) If you feel God would say that to you or treat you that way, you have made yourself better than God, because if you would never say or do that to your kids, but you think God would to you, once again, you have made yourself out to be a better father (or mother) than God is.

But the truth is, we know God will forgive us because He loves us, and all we have to do is confess our sins to Him and He will forgive us.

† **1 John 1:9** *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Now think of our kids again, how many times do they do something wrong, and we know they did, and in most cases we know why, but when we confront them with it, they do not want to “confess” their wrong, but rather they want to give excuses for why they did what they did. (I see everyone shaking their heads up and down in agreement) And don’t we get frustrated when they do, because we just want them to admit their wrong, say they are sorry and try not to do it again. Simple right?

But we are just as bad as our kids, aren’t we. We read the verse I just mentioned which says, ***If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*** (underlined for emphasis)

All God want’s us to do is ***confess our sins*** to Him, why? Think about it, if you try to make excuses for your sins, you are trying to justify what you have done, and if you can justify away your sin, what need was there for Jesus to die for that sin, because you explained it away and think you and God are cool because you gave Him a bunch of excuses to cover it. But the verse does not say, ***If we give God a bunch of excuses for our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

Maybe it’s time for us to grow up and be like Job, who tried to find excuses, but in the end, after God spoke, all Job could say was; ***Then Job replied to the LORD: “I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you. You asked, ‘Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?’ It is I—and I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me. You said, ‘Listen and I will speak! I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.’ I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes. I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance.” Job 42:1-6 (NLT2)***

After you pray a prayer like that to God in repentance of your sins, then know He will not reject you, but rest in what today’s verse says, which seals the fact that you are His, and He will never, ever let you go or tell you to leave. ***For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Hebrews 13:5b***