

LEADER'S GUIDE

THE ANSWER TO

BAD RELIGION

IS NOT

NO RELIGION

A GUIDE TO

GOOD RELIGION FOR SEEKERS,

STRAYERS, AND BELIEVERS

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WHAT'S THE LEAST I CAN BELIEVE AND STILL BE A CHRISTIAN?

WITH JESSICA MILLER KELLEY

Sermon: **Good Religion Practices Forgiveness**

Colossians 3:12-17 (NRSV)

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; *just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.* Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body.

And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.







How many extra pounds of grudges are you packing around?



How many handbags of animosity?



How many flight bags of resentment?



How many rolling bags packed with revenge?



Forgiveness –

* is not forgetting; rather, it is choosing not to actively remember.

*is not saying to the other party: "You're okay." Rather, it is saying, "I'm okay, and I am willing to let God deal with whether you're okay; and if you're not, how you can become okay."

* is not saying, "I don't feel the pain anymore." Rather, it is saying, "I do not feel the need to hold on to your involvement in my pain anymore."

The background of the image is a scenic landscape. In the foreground, there is a lush green field. To the left, a single, full-canopied tree stands on a small rise. The sky above is a vibrant blue, filled with large, soft white clouds. The overall atmosphere is bright and serene.

*Forgiveness is not
something we owe to each
other. It is an act of worship
to God.*

The Gift of

FORGIVENESS

To those who hate us we shall say, "We shall match your capacity to inflict suffering with our capacity to endure suffering. We shall meet your physical force with soul force. Do to us what you will, and we shall continue to love you... Throw us in jail, and we shall still love you. Bomb our homes and threaten our children, and we shall still love you. Send your hooded perpetrators of violence into our communities at midnight and beat us and leave us for half-dead, and we shall still love you. But be ye assured that we will wear you down by our capacity to suffer." -- Martin Luther King Jr.



