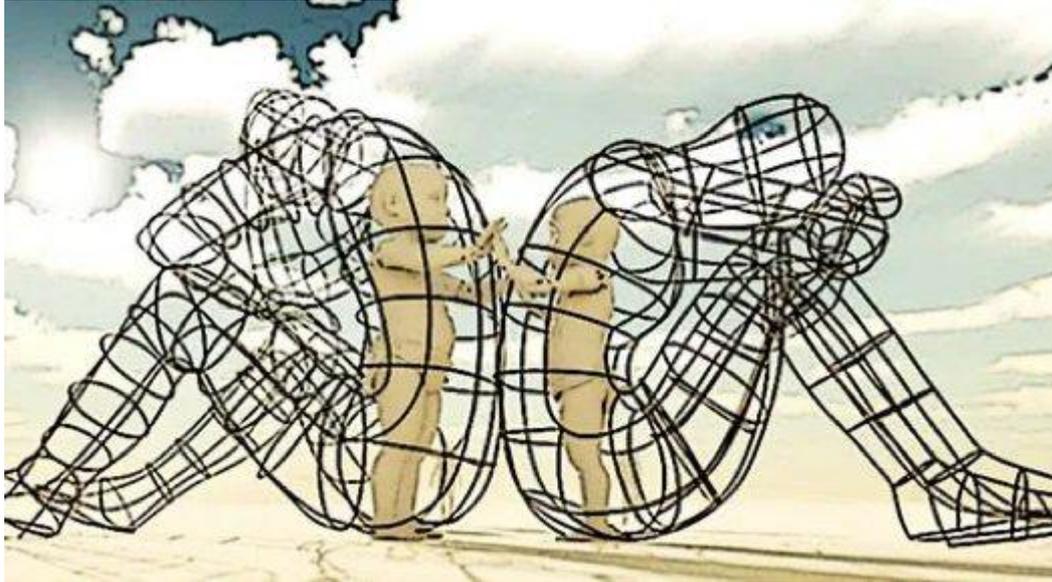


JUST BECAUSE WE GROW OLDER DOES NOT MEAN WE GROW UP!

Grace and Peace to you from the Philippines! Today is Friday, March 13, 2026. Our reading today is Luke Chapter 6. In today's reading the religious leaders rebuke JESUS for dishonoring the Sabbath. He tells them that He is the Lord of the Sabbath. In the book of Mark, Jesus tells them that the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. (Mark 2:27) This means man is more important than the Sabbath. Sometimes, you need to do what you have to do. Many folks need to learn that following Christ is not keeping a set of rules or laws. We don't have to go to church. We get to go to church. We are free in Christ. Read the short book of Galatians in the Bible.



Of course, the Pharisees did not understand. Some people put more emphasis on attending church than on their spiritual attitude and relationship with GOD. For instance, some attend church angry with a family member but when they arrive to church they put on a "smiley" face to greet

the pastor. If we are not careful, we can make a religion out of church attendance. When I was a boy, the little country church our family attended used to give perfect attendance medals. This was only for those who did not miss a Sunday during the whole year. There was one lady who had earned 20 Attendance Medals. That's impressive. However, that meant she came to church when she was sick, when the weather was bad, when her family wanted her to be with them on vacation, etc. Be careful not to make "church attendance" your religion, regardless if you have a great church. It certainly is a privilege to attend church. However, Jesus would be the first to tell you the matter of the heart is more important than your physical presence.

After healing a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath, the Pharisees again question His motive. They have put more importance on "religious rituals", like keeping the Sabbath, than ministering to more important personal matters. Afterward, Jesus chose twelve men to follow Him. He refers to them as apostles. Later, He begins a sermon we refer to as the Beatitudes. To the reader, this seems to be the opposite of what we normally do. For instance, love your enemies, do well to them that hate you, etc. However, this is what separates true believers from the world. Christians should be more like our Savior; loving and kind when our enemies attack us. It's easy to hate your enemies. However, it's another thing entirely to love them. Enjoy your reading today and look for a way to show Christ's love to others; especially those who despitely use you.

Note: I found the photo below which was in the mind of a sculptor who designed two adults who were unforgiving to one another. However, children are more willing to forgive. Just because we grow older does not mean that we grow up; mature. Grow in GOD's grace. (2 Peter 3:18)

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