

Kids

- *What is the hardest word?*
 - Sorry!
- Why?

Introduction

- Another place where we fail to obey?
 - or is this a license to dredge up all our own points of view and complaints...?

Question of balance

- Image of tightrope walker or person balancing on train tracks...
- Two poles are **resolution** and **forgiveness**
 - each have a tendency to be at one end or the other

Resolution: Sort it out

- Do not bury or ignore things
 - but raise them with what purpose and intention?
 - restoration, not (self) justification
- Need for humility, love, compassion
- How many people have come to me over 10 years of ministry and told me about something...
 - sometimes its appropriate, and sometimes not, to say: "Have you spoken to them about it?"

Challenges:

- to go an sort it out
- to go in humility and love...

Forgiveness: Let it go

Challenges:

- to forgive, and not self-justify
- to forgive, and not just avoid conflict and confrontation...

Conclusion: David Watson

- David Watson was a leading Church of England clergyman in the late 1970's. In autobiography of those last few years of life, he writes this:
 - About one o'clock one Advent Sunday morning, I had a bad asthmatic attack. In my helplessness, I cried out to God to speak to me. I'm not very good at listening to God, but between one and three o'clock God spoke to me so powerfully and painfully that I have never felt so broken before him...
 - God showed me that any "love" for him meant nothing unless I was truly able to love from my heart my brother or sister in Christ. As the Lord put various names into my mind I began to write letters to about twelve people asking for forgiveness for hurting them, for still being inwardly angry against them - or whatever. It was the most painful pruning and purging I can remember in my entire Christian life. But fruitful! Already some replies to my letters have reduced me to tears.
- David Watson learned, painfully, that forgiveness needed to work in the real world, in the sometimes difficult and painful relationships we have with others.
- He learned that this was the way Jesus led
 - and we also need follow our Lord
- *Point of this sermon is in the application - who do I need to go and talk to...*