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Christian Advocate

Organ of the North Carolina Conference.

SIXTY-FOURTH YEAR.

RALEIGH, N. C., SEPTEMBER 12, 1918

NUMBER 32.

Forgiveness.

We must admit that Jesus taught plainly that if we do not forgive men we cannot expect that God will forgive us, but perhaps we have not thought our way to a clear understanding of His point of view. The picture of God standing upon His dignity and refusing to forgive men who would not forgive their fellows is not the correct one. There is a fundamental and necessary reason for His taking that attitude, and He could not possibly on moral grounds take any other. Just as is the case with any earthly parent, God's forgiveness could not become effective to any erring son except that son had come into a proper filial attitude to Himself. Forgiveness is not something that can be thrown at us, and it can have no existence apart from our right attitude toward the one whom we have wronged. But the filial attitude toward God involves the brotherly attitude toward all who call Him Father. And, therefore, the great head of the family has no way of forgiving that son who has not granted forgiveness to his brother. ---Christian Guardian.