

Treat him like a pagan or a tax collector

Harsh words. Very harsh words.

The infinite love of God respects human dignity

You have a certain degree of free will.

The reality is that you have a choice.

Choices have consequences

The child was told that the computer games console was to be turned off. That the three warnings had been given and that if the defiance was to continue, then the machine would be packed away for three days. That if the child choose to disobey then there would be consequences. The child chose to try out his parents resolve.

The child sneaked back to the console turned it on. Judgement was passed the machine put back in the box and the screaming, shouting, and sulking began. The parents respected their child, so they stuck to the decisions that had been made.

Decisions that had consequences.

This is all well and fine in the process of growing up. Perhaps it grows harsher as we grow older.

Because

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The payments that had to be made on the car meant a monthly debit from the account. Lack of money in the bank had meant that this vehicle was to be paid for in these instalments. Lack of money in the bank meant that the credit company would get an extra 20% on the deal. However the choice had been made. Pressurised by the lack of public transport and the constant inconvenience of early morning rises, and long walks.

But the client choose to test the resolve of the credit company. Failing once then twice to have the money in the account at the end of the month.

Overdrafts added to the bill. Invisible issues were ignored. Choosing to take the ostrich approach possible resolutions were lost in time.

Thus the bailiffs arrived and the post still contained letters pointing out commitments for the vehicle that was no longer there.

It is not fair

The world has those with money and those without

This is a reality

Your limited choice is also a reality

And choices have consequences

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The love that they shared was real. Not romantic fantasy, or irrational attraction.

Thus it was valued.

Thus there was a real fear that it could be lost.

To protect this precious thing then choices were made.

Never outspoken choices, but choices never the less.

One of the partners grew an extremely sensitive surface. Should any issue arise, or any crisis surface there was an immediate panic. Sulking, even screaming.

The other partner choose thus to avoid the truth of any dilemma. Never pointing out the inconvenient, difficult or dangerous.

Ironically this mutual deception meant that there was a constant tension.

The love being smothered by the perceived need to protect

It was really difficult

Few relationships develop without pain

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It is ironic that the love of a parent for a child will ensure that decisions have consequences

It is ironic that decisions to impose the law means that there is freedom

It is ironic that the strengthening of love comes as a consequence of facing unpleasant realities

Being of faith does not mean that we avoid the harsh nature of choice

Being of faith means that we embrace choice

Choice which has consequences

Consequences which have the potential to bring life.