

## The Death of a Belt

**Romans 5:8-10 “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!”**

This story is told with permission.

I spoke with a man who went to visit his dying grandfather who told him to go to the basement and take whatever he wanted. The first thing that caught his eye was a belt hanging on the wall. He was immediately taken back to his childhood when his father showed him that same belt hanging on the wall and said, “Now that’s the belt my father used to beat me with! So consider yourself lucky that I only beat you with this one.”

He just stood and gazed at the thick leather belt that had been used to pass on a curse. To this day, every time he put on a belt and heard the jingle of a buckle, his soul would shudder in pain and fear. He took that belt, drove home, and threw it in the dumpster, resolving to never let that curse define any of his relationships again.

Then his son came out, and spoke with him right after he threw the belt away. The conversation led to the young son being defiant and disobedience. Before he knew it, this father was spanking his son. This father was able to have his way, but then sat in shame that the belt was still in his heart.

This father then saw that if he would have taken the time to really get into his son’s heart and relate to him, that belt would not have been used. Then that father thought about his own sin. Love would be the only factor that could throw that belt away.

Love paid the precious sacrifice for our sin so we can relate to God as a child to a Papa. God put our deserved wrath on Jesus. So, are you still beating yourself or seeing God with a belt? Or do you see the open arms of a loving Father who took all the punishment for your sins, past, present, and future so He could relate to you as a gentle Father. And that’s how God the Father throws away belts.

