

## Still Mad After 40 Years

By Bob Young

*[I have been reviewing my past blogs. I share a favorite from 2008. The blog may be old; the message and lesson are as relevant as today's news.]*

My sister recently attended her high school class reunion—Class of '68. Class reunions are interesting. My view on class reunions is this: "Everyone should attend a class reunion or two to find out that all the stuff that was a part of high school really wasn't serious." My sister laughed at my statement and proceeded with her story (names omitted to protect the innocent—or guilty!).

During the mandatory introductions and comments, one classmate sincerely apologized for the mischief and difficulties he had brought upon another student. According to my sister, the offended student angrily acknowledged the wrong and refused the apology. The hurt was apparently still fresh in his mind after 40 years. My sister's version said, "He was really mad."

Forty years is a long time to stay mad about a minor high school event. Even sadder, forty years is a long time to stay mad about perceived slights or problems in a family, a relationship, down at the church. I like the practice of some churches who host a "Day of Reconciliation" periodically. Time to let go of the past and move on. Everyone needs reconciliation—to God, to others. Everyone benefits when they "go home" and rebuild broken relationships.

Some Christians just can't let themselves forget. Some remember past wrongs a long time. Some ignore opportunities to repair relationships—and then one day, it is too late. Folks who retain grudges and anger start down a long road that leads nowhere. The Bible says, "Let not the sun go down you're your wrath."

According to the Bible, even 40 days is too long to stay mad. In fact, 40 hours is too long. Whatever it is, settle it before sunset.

If you're upset about some hurt or problem or disagreement, today is the day to settle it.