

## A clean slate Mky paper edition

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(444 words)

As a parent you tend to be privy to that sinking feeling fairly regularly, when your kids blow it. They either *do* the very thing you told them *not* to do or they *don't* do the very thing you asked them *to* do! Transgressions committed in the privacy of the home tend not to be as difficult to absolve as those perpetrated in the public arena. How one parents from this place defines you for unless you are delusional or trapped in a time warp, *you've* probably done much worse. The only way to salvage any remnant of dignity in this instance is to blame their father's DNA!

Have you ever noticed what happens when the family, in particular the Grandparents get together and reminisce about the days gone by when the adult children themselves were kids? There are the usual stories tossed about that serve as a great source of comic relief at family functions, well rehearsed after numerous renditions over the years.

Grandparents have an uncanny way of spinning the yarns so that you, the grown child, escape with your reputation in tact, in spite of the odd delinquent outburst in your teenage years, and remarkably, your kids wind up calling you a flipping legend! (paraphrased interpretation of Prov 31:28) Grandparents can't seem to remember you talking back or breaking a curfew, fighting like cats and dogs with a sibling, or the regrettable condition of your bedroom, all of which generally elicits rolling of the eyes from you, the grown children. The knowledge Grandparents possess is formidable. And we wonder to ourselves '*how could they have forgotten?*' Are they delusional or senility? Perhaps the transgressions were so insignificant they don't warrant remembering? Neither. I suspect Grandparents forget because their love simply can't retain those offenses for very long; their love doesn't have the strength to hang onto that which caused heartache and anguish.

We can all thank God that his paternal love has a weak memory. Isaiah 43:25 reminds us that he blots out our transgressions and forgets them intentionally. Why? "...*for my own sake,*" God says. Our sin isn't an impersonal violation of his cosmic order, but rather, it is deeply personal, striking at the very core of his relationship with us, his image bearers; his creation. And because God finds our sin so grievous, so abhorrent, he sought to effectively eradicate sin for eternity. This is not romantic senility or divine dementia. Only Jesus was able to blot out our transgressions forever; *for God's sake*. God grant each of us a memory laps when it comes to our sin, so we can live free from the condemnation of the enemy.

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