



August 2016

engl.

Bear with each other!

(Colossians 3:13)

Start again

„Freunde des Wortes“

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Dear friends of the word,

How quickly do judgemental thoughts creep into our soul? How quickly do we condemn others: Oh- he left his shoes in the hall again! – I asked you to be on time but I had to wait for 20 minutes. He promised to call over the weekend- now its Wednesday already! We had a discussion in our football team about how to increase our team spirit, but in yesterday's game the same thing happened again. One team member wasn't prepared to create chances for other players, all he wanted to do was to show how good a player he is.

These experiences shape our everyday life. They are a danger but they also represent an opportunity. In these moments you can learn to **set the right course in your life**. It is dangerous to retreat into your shell, to throw in the towel and give up at these times: "I'm fed up! I've tried so many times! He/she won't change!" Actually, you have a point there: **You can't change others.**

Pope Francis told his teenage listeners in Sarajevo: "You have an important vocation: never to build walls, but only bridges!" But how do we build bridges in times of disappointment? **It's not possible without making a big leap!** In show jumping horses have to jump over fences and if they refuse to do so they get penalised. Equally, all these "walls of disappointment" invite us to jump into the hearts of those who disappointed us. Sometimes a little sense of humour can help!

I was organising a trip with a group of teenagers. Somebody mentioned that he would like to come along and that he would confirm by the end of the month. That time had long gone, I tried to contact him via WhatsApp and text messages but there was no reply. Really - annoying! Then he called, I saw his name on the display. It was up to me to- Start again! "Great to hear from you, I couldn't remember if we said late February 2016 or 2017!" We both had to laugh. It's important to **Start again!**

For the OnWordTeam Meinolf Wacker