

MYRA HINDLEY – and God's love.

1. Myra Hindley's life and death raises many Christian themes. Does the Christian join in the chorus 'May she rot in Hell!?' No! That is the understandable human reaction of those who have been horribly hurt and maimed by her behaviour.

In her case, to have her 'rotting in hell' probably describes her past at the hands of the British government rather than her future in the loving hands of her Father-Creator!

2. We Christians do not wish her – or anybody - 'hell'; on the contrary we pray for her forgiveness and redemption. One Christian newspaper quoted the lines:

'The vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.'

'Vilest offender' certainly – but what about 'a pardon receives'? Much as society would like to lock Myra into her past, she – and we – have a present and a future in which the past may be changed and redeemed.

3. The law, as such, has little or no concept of forgiveness, so cannot begin to cope with it. (The human heart tends to opt for law and revenge rather than to reflect God's mercy and love.)

4. If the report of Myra's Christian repentance is true, then she is my 'sister' in Christ, and of all others within Christ's family. Jesus said of one woman:

"Therefore I tell you, her sins which were many have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little."
[Luke 7:47]

5. Myra could well have a love for Christ that is quite enormous because of the forgiveness she has experienced. This may be so much greater than the loving response of folk like myself (and perhaps you also) who by our Christian upbringing sin in ways that are less heinous.

6. Her infamous photo does not symbolise for me the depth of human depravity. On the contrary, events suggest it may be captioned by the text:

'I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.'
[Romans 8:38-39]

Karl Barth's volume of sermons preached to the inmates of Basle prison was entitled 'Deliverance to the Captives'. Barth was not planning a mass breakout! Real deliverance is possible within physical bondage; just as real bondage is possible when we are physically free!

7. It would be sad if the media and public feeling kept alive and spread the very evil which God in his mercy may well have finally dealt with in the life of one who perpetrated it.

8. It would be a victory for evil if folk allowed themselves to envisage the focal-point of evil in one of last century's police photographs!
9. May she rest in peace.