

Forgiveness at The Heart of Lent

Our Forgiveness Lenten Mission

During Lent, we fast, pray and give alms. We humbly ask for The Liberty of The Grace of GOD's Forgiveness. We are called to forgive others as GOD forgives us. We leave the application of Justice to The LORD's earthly and eternal Providence. We look upon those who have wronged us with the same Mercy that JESUS CHRIST looks upon us.

JOEL 2:13 & PSALM 51:10

And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto The LORD your GOD.
Create in me a clean heart, O GOD; and renew a right spirit within me.¹

MATTHEW 6:12 & 14

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you.²

What Forgiveness is Not

"Forgiveness is not forgetting or pretending it didn't happen... We need to retain the lesson learned without holding onto the pain. Forgiveness is not excusing. We excuse a person who is not to blame. We forgive because a wrong was committed. Forgiveness is not giving permission to continue hurtful behaviors; nor is it condoning the behavior... Forgiveness is not reconciliation..., which requires a separate choice of restoring or letting go of a relationship."³

GOD's Forgiveness for Us

In Christianity, The Sacrifice of JESUS CHRIST "was necessary to satisfy GOD's Justice. Moreover, That Sacrifice had to be perfect and spotless. Because of our sinful nature, we cannot repair our broken relationship with GOD on our own. Only JESUS was qualified to do that for us. At The Last Supper, on the night before His Crucifixion, He took a Cup of wine and told His Apostles, '*This is My Blood of The New Covenant, Which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.*' (MATTHEW 26:28, NIV) The next Day, JESUS died on The Cross, taking the punishment due us, and atoning for our sins. On The Third day after that, He rose from the dead, conquering death for all who believe in Him as Savior."⁴

Our Forgiveness for Others and Self

"...If we receive forgiveness from GOD, we must give it to others who hurt us. We cannot hold grudges or seek revenge. We are to trust GOD for Justice and forgive the person who offended us. That does not mean we must forget the offense..., lest we allow the offense to recur. Rather, we release "the other from blame, leaving the event in GOD's hands..."⁵ We give up our right of retribution in exchange for Peace. *What are you giving up for Lent this year?*

¹ King James Version Bible, JOEL 2:13 & PSALM 51:10.

² King James Version Bible, MATTHEW 6:12&14.

³ "What is Forgiveness?" Lynn Ponton, MD. Psych Central. Retrieved 2/17/2015.

<http://psychcentral.com/lib/what-is-forgiveness/000965>

⁴ "What Is Forgiveness? Understanding Biblical Forgiveness." Jack Zavada. About.com. Retrieved 2/17/2015. <http://christianity.about.com/od/faqhelpdesk/a/What-Is-Forgiveness.htm>

⁵ Ibid.

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