

But Nobody Ever Told Me... XXV

Tradition is surprisingly fragile. Once a link of the chain is broken, it is extremely difficult to reattach—and if it effects a second link—almost impossible. What often happens in many disciplines is that an older generation assumes that the younger generation knows how and why certain things are done. We can see this in everything from sports practices to cooking recipes.

As a wrap-up to the recent mini-series on Spiritual Warfare, it seemed to me to mention the most effective snare that the Enemy can and does use against us. By 'effective' I mean both statistically (a large number), and ultimate (as in final victory).

No doubt, you have heard of the phenomenon of near-death experience—people that have physically died and come back to life. Many of them report having similar (though not exact) experiences. Some of these experiences are fascinating. Many have seen the Lord and were given what their Judgment would be including being shown Hell. In His Mercy, they were then sent back to change their ways. You can find accounts of this kind of thing fairly readily on YouTube, for instance.

Why do I bring this up? What a number of these people have reported is that *most people in hell are there because of unforgiveness*.

Do you have to believe that? No. But I do. That pins the truth-meter in my spirit. When I first heard that I didn't even question it. I thought, "Yup. That's the truth. That's dead-on right."

However, it is usually not enough to just say the correct thing, you have to understand it so that you can communicate it to another. So, I began to think and to pray about why unforgiveness is statistically the supermajority of condemnations to hell.

Almost a year ago I did an extended series on Anger and Forgiveness in this column. That series focused on the nature of Anger, how it is to be exercised, and how it can be corrupted. It also unpacked the spiritual malady of unforgiveness.

Next week we will reprise the main points of that series in order to come to an understanding of how deadly this sin is. What I have understood is that *unforgiveness is a particular kind of cloak for a very highly developed sin of Pride*. It is a corruption of God's notion of Justice and is possibly only surpassed in degree of sin by conscious Despair—like Judas. You know, the sin against the Holy Spirit referred to as "unforgiveable".

In the meantime, if you are holding a grudge of any kind, don't wait to find out what I have to say. You need to release the culprit(s) in forgiveness immediately (or at least lament to God that you want to, but don't feel like you can). What if you get in an accident on the way home? You might not be sent back...