

But Nobody Ever Told Me... XXVII

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.

A couple of weeks ago, I mentioned that there is a significant amount of private revelation which states that the vast majority of souls in hell are there because of unforgiveness. We are certainly not required to believe private revelation, however, it is always worth pondering and weighing against what we know are the Truths of our Faith. In this case, speaking for myself, I have a moral certainty that this is true. Let's look at why.

Last week we reviewed Unforgiveness as an internal lie. It is a summoning or eliciting of Anger from within—like an athlete intentionally triggering an adrenaline response. Adrenaline is a physiological response. Anger is emotional, psychological, spiritual, *and* physiological. Authentic Anger is also specific, of brief duration, and always elicited from something outside of us.

Unforgiveness is a lie because it *internally* summons that Anger response *by thinking of the former event as a current reality*. That is a lie and He who is the Truth can have no part of it. The only remedy for this state is Forgiveness.

Forgiveness for a Christian begins with the Truth. I.e., What you did to me is not 'okay', did happen, and *in Justice, gives me the right* to restitution or retaliation. However, in the Love of Christ, Who told us many times that we must forgive from the heart, I chose to release you in Forgiveness to the hands of God. Whatever He wants for you, is what I want. I trust Him to be both Just and Merciful in a way that I cannot. Although I have the right to be, I am not your judge. You don't answer to me, but to God. I Forgive you.

Once we make this conscious choice to Forgive, it is a complete act. Contrary feelings do not mean it didn't take or was incomplete. They do indicate that we have to heal further, but as long as we do not indulge them, feelings do not mean we are still being unforgiving.

Whenever these feelings rise up, we simply turn to the Lord and reiterate the prayer and act of Forgiveness. As long as we are consistent, the healing will proceed and the unruly feelings will recede and eventually disappear altogether.

Next week, why I understand that it is true that most souls in hell are there because of unforgiveness.