

But Nobody Ever Told Me... XXVIII

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 few 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. In this case, speaking for myself, I have a moral certainty that this is true.

For the last couple of weeks we reviewed first Unforgiveness and then Forgiveness. Now we come to the conclusion of why I understand that most people in hell are there because of Unforgiveness: Unforgiveness is (1) a failure to Love as Jesus commanded us (Jn 13:34, 35), and (2) a corruption of Justice by means of Pride.

(1) Failure to Love.

We are made in God's Image and Likeness.(Gn 1:27) God's very own nature is Love.(1Jn 4:8) Virtually, every page of the Bible narrates for us how in His compassionate Love, God is always ready and willing to forgive a repentant sinner, and yearns with desire for the repentance of those who have not.

This is not an ignoring or countermanding of Justice. With the penetrating eyes of Love, God knows what is truly in the heart of each of us. Moreover, out of His tremendous love of us, He desires not just our good, but our best. Despite the fact that by sinning we take advantage of Him, insult Him, and pursue other lovers, He waits with broken heart for an opportunity to win us back because He knows that to be with Him for all eternity is what is best for us. Love wants what is best for the other, no matter the cost.

(2) Corruption of Justice by Pride.

When we fail to Love as God does, it is not as though we do not continue to love with all our capacity. We just choose to love ourselves more. That is the sin of Pride—a disordered self-love. I love myself first and best.

When I love myself first and best, any offense against me must be repaid and even if restitution is made, *the fact that it happened can never be undone.* Therefore, the offense is permanent. I am a "victim". Pride has corrupted my sense of Justice because it perceives an infinite offense that can never be repaired.

Now look at Jesus on the Cross. Can you think of anything more *unlike* God? **That is why most souls in hell are there because of unforgiveness. It is the very best way to be unlike God!**