

Forgiveness is an Act of Love

Matthew 6:14-For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: (KJV)

Forgiveness of others is an acknowledgement of Jesus Christ existing in others. The journey to Pascha begins with forgiveness and acts of forgiveness are to continue. Forgiving others has a place throughout the earthly life of the Christian believer. The Lord's Prayer has forgiveness as a central part in the relationship with God. Forgiveness of others and being forgiven by God are linked in the Lord's Prayer.

Mark 11:25-And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. (KJV)

Forgiveness removes unhealthy barriers that arise in human personal relationships. Constraints in relationships are removed when believers practice forgiveness. The potential for healthy growth in relationships occurs when forgiveness exists. Love for others is expressed and verified through the practice of forgiveness. Healthy families greatly cherish the value of forgiveness and thrive because of it.

Luke 23:34-Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. (KJV)

Parents teach their sons and daughters forgiveness by daily personal examples. Jesus Christ established the lasting example of forgiveness when He was crucified. We learn from Jesus' example of forgiveness when He hung upon the Cross. Jesus demonstrated by personal example the act of forgiveness of His opponents. Believers practicing forgiveness demonstrate deep faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 8:22-Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. (KJV)

Thoughts often arise in the heart that need repelled and forgiven by the Lord God. Repentance is necessary throughout life for a healthy relationship with Christ. Forgiveness resulting from repentance removes the barriers with Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ's love for the believer is realized in the healing act of forgiveness. The believer experiences new found freedom when being forgiven by Christ.

Romans 4:7-Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. (KJV)

Forgiveness has a place in the very beginning and end of the journey to Pascha. Throughout the Christian life believers do well to actively practice forgiveness. The annual journey to Pascha is the journey from earthly life to God's Kingdom. Life eternal becomes possible when forgiveness is actively practiced in earthly life. Practitioners of forgiveness model their lives after Jesus Christ upon the Cross.

Great and Holy Wednesday. St. John Climacus. March 30/April 12, 2023.

Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic