

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
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The Miracle of Divine Forgiveness

“But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses”

Matthew 6:15.

“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice. And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you”
(Eph. 4:31-32).

Dear beloved child of God by divine calling, I have been made aware of situations over the years of ministering and Pastoring among the Lord’s people which ought not be . To my amazement I have heard some inform me of major discord and divisions among families of professing believers who harbor bitterness and even hatred towards family members and even among Church brethren over one matter or another.

I was informed on one occasion by a dear sister of a Deacon of a Primitive Baptist Assembly during the funeral of one of their family. This dear sister expressed to me that she would love to attend the Old Baptist Assembly of which her brother is deacon, but does not because there is disharmony and discord between some family members over an inheritance that was not (as I was informed) distributed fairly among the heirs upon the death of their beloved Father many years ago.

This harbored bitterness had broken off any communication between these individuals for over twenty-five years or more!

This dear sister attends a Missionary Assembly in the region but would rather attend the Old Baptist assembly of which she and other family members were raised up in since their birth. I was saddened as I heard the testimony of the dear lady and the discord that was evident between the two parties.

Brethren and Sisters, these things ought not be between those of our families and even among ANY person to whom we are acquainted. I have been told of numerous accounts of Church splits over some issue or matter that had arisen between family members and or brethren in the assembly. Have we lost the vision of our Lord's command TO FORGIVE OTHERS?

Some might say, "well, my brother swindled me out of millions of dollars of money that our Father had designated to be split equally among the heirs! I can't forgive this stealing of money which rightfully was designated as mine!" Now, we have two natural born brothers that are PROFESSING believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, and there is bitter unforgiveness between them.

Brethren, These matters ought not be named among those that name the name of our Lord Jesus Christ a Saviour and Lord. On one occasion, as Pastor, I confronted a Deacon of one assembly of which I ministered which had a severe ought against a family member over an inheritance issue that had grieved the sibling that wanted to reconcile the difference. I had mentioned that I was informed of the matter and was ask if there was anything I could do to assist as Pastor to help reconcile the difference. The Deacon indicated that he was unfairly treated of an inheritance over land. All I said, was "Brother, as a Christian and Deacon of the Church of our Jesus Christ, you need to consider any harbored bitterness between you and another is not pleasing to our Lord, and may you consider what our Lord has said regarding FORGIVENESS and FORGIVING one another, least we ourselves have not our sin forgiven us."

This is a serious matter beloved! We can claim all the spirituality one can come up with, yet if there be an UNFORGIVING heart and harbored bitterness over hurts from others over time, may we to seek Gods mercy to cause us to FORGIVE OTHERS if we have a hope that we have been forgiven. For how can we as Gods people hold harbored bitterness against others if our loving Saviour has laid down His life's Blood for us?

I find it very difficult to understand how one that has been Born Again of the Spirit of our ALL FORGIVING Saviour can have bitterness and hatred towards others, especially among those that name Christ as their hope of sins forgiven and life everlasting? For an UNFORGIVING heart and attitude IS NOT OF CHRIST! If we are admonished to "love our enemies", how shall we treat those of our own families and those which make up the church of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Brethren, if we honestly EXAMINE ourselves and are guilty of such harbored bitterness and feelings, we "need to make our calling and election sure"!! For one with such an unforgiving heart could not have the blessed assurance that "all is well with their soul?" For I am convinced that "whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth." And unforgiveness will be dealt with according to our Lords chastening love that repentance and reconciliation will be the end result and blessed peace restored among the heirs of grace.

For I am persuaded that our Lords divine forgiveness will be evidenced in those born of His Holy Spirit and shall cause those to FORGIVE OTHERS as we have been forgiven, for this work of sovereign love shall demonstrate that we ARE THE LORD'S. May our loving Master cause all unforgiveness and bitterness towards another to be erased from our hearts, minds and souls for the glory, praise and honor of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom has redeemed us from ALL our sin as far as the east is from the west.

*Respectfully submitted,
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