

FORGIVE

Pastor Solomon L. Williams



The word forgive represents a principle of Christianity that has (in some instances in the C.O.G.I.C.) been over shadowed by pride. Pride is demonized to the extent that it prohibits a person professing to be a Christ like individual experiencing the evolutionary nature of God in his or her life when born again. The Bible says "...that pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." 1 Jn.2:16. Also..."Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

Prov.16:18. Why is it so hard to tell a person I am sorry. Please forgive me, and mean it. The Bible says "Only by pride cometh contention: but with the ***Well- advised is wisdom.***" ***Prov.13:10.***

We do not have to look very far to see the pernicious effects of a confused church that is not spiritually unionized. It leads to "physical proximity without spiritual affinity." It gives us a church where we are physically desegregated and spiritually segregated, where elbows are together and hearts are apart. It gives us special togetherness and spiritual apartness. It leaves us with a stagnant equality of sameness rather than a constructive equality of oneness. Therefore, our topic leads us to an analysis of "hypocrisy" of righteousness.

Most hypocrites do not see their own sins. They have actually deceived themselves. Despite being guilty of terrible sin, they continue their religious activities in the belief that God accepts them. They believe they are good enough and do enough good works that, in the final analysis, God will never reject them. No matter how deeply sin is rooted in their lives, they still believe they are acceptable to God. They are convinced that they are eternally secure. Throughout the Bible God has much to say about hypocrisy and false religion. "Now I beseech you, brethren, Mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which we have learned; avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple." Ro.16:17-18.

The Church Of God In Christ is not a denomination but a location. It is The Lords Church located in Jesus Christ. We are a prayed out church by our founder Bishop Charles Harrison Mason. He believed the Word of God, "***...if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall loose it: and***

whosoever Will loose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profiteth, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Mat.16:24-26.

WE CAN OVERCOME HYPOCRISY

1. Hypocrites must become humble, worship and acknowledge God 7 days a week
2. Hypocrites must continually bow their heads, seeking and praying to the Lord
3. Hypocrites must make every day acceptable to the Lord by obeying Him.
4. Hypocrites must be just in their dealings with everyone.
5. Hypocrites must minister to the needy, feed the hungry, provide shelter for the homeless, and clothes to the poor.
6. **REPENT.** Hypocrites who repent will receive light and healing from the Lord. ISA.58:5-7

There must be a recognition of the sacredness of the Word of the Lord. Deeply rooted in our lives and religious heritage is the conviction that "...If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Cor.5:17. We must correct the sinfulness in ourselves and strive for humility to forgive those who trespass against us. Aren't we aware that there is no title nor position recognition in eternity? As a friend of mine would say, the "**caviar**" of forgiveness is Humility.

"...Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and give the grace to the humble." 1 Pet.5:5b. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John.3:16. The way has already been made, no matter our guilt the way has been made for us to be forgiven and inherit eternal life. "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. **Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like Crimson, they shall be as wool.**" Isa.1:16-18.

To receive eternal life we must embody the principle of forgiveness. "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Mat.6:14, 15.

Come on Church, get right and let's go home. "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." 1Cor.14:33



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