



ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Forgiveness

“Happy are those who work for peace, God will call them His children” [Mat 5:9]

Everyone has been wronged, offended, hurt at some point in life. We all know how much trouble is created by simple misunderstandings, whether caused by deeds or words. They often stem from the stressful world we live in and this stress can often lead us to the kind of utterances and actions which more often than not open up past wounds and grievances. It is on occasions like this that it is important for us to remember the words in the Holy Bible ***“be kind and tender hearted to one another, and forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ”*** [Eph 4-32]

Often we think it is impossible to forgive someone who has deeply wronged us; however, with God’s grace and guidance it is possible to overcome these negative feelings and if we do not we are allowing ourselves to become the slaves of Satan and not the followers of Christ, ***“If you obey my teaching, you are really my disciples; you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*** [John 8:31-32]

In the Lord’s Prayer we ask God to forgive us as we forgive those who sin against us. ***“If you forgive others the wrong they have done to you, your Father in heaven will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive the wrongs you have done”*** [Mat 6:14-15]

The Holy Spirit can empower us, when we surrender to Him. ***“The Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control”*** [Gal 5:22-23]

Some of us might say ***“I forgive but I cannot forget”*** this is hypocrisy, an excuse not to let go of the hurt and injury. The Bible does not permit us to add any conditions to forgiveness. We should not let bad memories torment us. The Bible commands us to ***forgive and forget***. The moment we forgive means we promise never to mention this offence again. God gave us a wonderful promise ***“I will not remember their sins and evil deeds any longer”*** [Heb10:17] God is full of forgiveness when we open up our hearts to Him, it is only then that we will be totally free.

Quote
People who constantly live in the past,
are usually afraid of the present.