

Obstinacy: A Barrier to the Union of Sorrows – I

Missionaries of the Cross, 2/2/23

Hebrews 12:1-15

“Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us” (12:1).

St Paul is continuously encouraging us to persevere in laying aside all sin and warns us of the danger of a “root of bitterness springing up” (15) in our hearts. Being purified of all our sin patterns is painful and difficult because our sins “cling so closely” to us. This process of purification that St Paul speaks about is the path of the Cross. St Paul makes it clear that remaining in this path of purification takes us to “shed our blood.” (4) This was explained in our 2020 Retreat on the 1st nail of crucifixion with the teachings on the circumcision of our hearts, the cutting out of our desires, expectations, and attachments.

St Paul also makes it clear that God purifies us, His beloved children, through discipline, which is usually through trials, sufferings, tribulations, etc., so that “we may share his holiness” (10). Therefore, He exhorts us to “Strive for peace with all men, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.” (14)

St Paul also teaches us how to endure through this process of the Cross that transforms us into the new Adams and Eves. He draws our gaze upon Christ’s passion: “Consider him who **endured from sinners such hostility against himself**, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.” (3)

1. **Obstinacy**

Obstinacy is a grave sin, a “root of bitterness,” predominately in the hearts of men, that becomes a barrier to the work of Redemption. For example, the Lord mentions obstinate hearts in His messages to us with a severe warning of perdition.

The Path is My formation for the saints of these decisive times preparing the path for My Second Coming. Do not be afraid to proclaim from the housetops the words I speak in the recesses of your heart, for those who have pure hearts will hear My voice and follow Me, but the obstinate will perish... 6/27/16

What is obstinacy?

Obstinacy is among the most dangerous of sins. It’s a sin that cannot be forgiven because, in essence, it’s a refusal to change. A stubborn person refuses to admit his sin and refuses to change; then God cannot help him. They remain lost in their sin and suffer the consequences.

An obstinate heart commits a grave sin against the Holy Spirit— it does not allow the grace of Redemption to touch his inner being. Redemption is God’s great gift to humanity, purchased for us through Christ’s passion, death, and resurrection. Yet, because we have been created with free will, we have to say “yes” to receive this gift. Our “yes” means we are willing to participate in our Redemption by opening our hearts wide to Christ so that, through His Blood,

the Spirit can cleanse us, purify us, and empty us to make us a new creation in God's image and likeness.

An obstinate heart denies the Holy Spirit the gift of self-knowledge. It denies the Holy Spirit the grace of self-discovery of what remains hidden in the recesses of his heart: the false I— the person we have all become that we are not.

Why is obstinacy more common among men?

Because they are tempted to use the spiritual authority and physical strength that God gave them to lord it over others instead of serving.

Reflection Questions:

Do you struggle with obstinacy in your life? Do you find it difficult to admit when you are wrong? Do you find it difficult to **apologize to another and seek to change**? Are there doctrines of faith that you refuse to believe? Are there broken relationships that you refuse to humbly restore? Do you justify your sin and refuse to admit your guilt and need to change?

Pray to our Lord for the gift of a humble heart. Humility, in many ways, is nothing other than being completely honest with yourself and others before God.

See: [*Teaching 11/10/22 – Emotions— The Spirit Aligns Our Emotions with Christ*](#)

[Continues on Part II](#)