

The Church, Forgiveness, and Life Everlasting  
4-21-2019

*"And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he [Jesus] answered them well, asked him, 'Which commandment is the most important of all?' Jesus answered, 'The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'" The second is this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'" Mark 12:28-31*

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from Where he  
shall come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of the saints, the  
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.*

*"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'" Revelation 7:9-10*

*How are you living out the "one-anothers" right now?*

*In what ways are you taking steps, are you making aware, are you creating buffers so that the relationships with others might deepen?*

- *God forgives.*

*Forgiveness is releasing someone from their wrongs fully, freely, and forever.*

*A. Iniquity*

*B. Transgression*

*C. Sin.*

- *God's people are the stage upon which the forgiveness of God is made visible.*

*"We all agree forgiveness is a beautiful idea until we have to practice it." C. S. Lewis*

*"So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body." 1 Corinthians 15:42-44*

*"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.'*

*He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.'*

*And he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.'"*

Revelation 21:1-7

*"There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations—these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendors." C. S. Lewis*

*Where are you placing your ultimate hope?*

*In what ways have you shown a lack of concern for the eternity of your own soul?*