

Pastoral Interventions



Do We Feel Ourselves Wronged? Let Us Seek Love and Not Our Own Rights

Part 3



When we feel that someone is wronging us, **we need not be disturbed or upset.** We should conduct ourselves normally. If we keep silence and do not stir up resentment within ourselves, the battle quiets down. But if we insist on asserting our rights, or imposing our own “correct” thought, we will accomplish nothing.

Let us entrust the solution of the matter to God, and the just Judge will vindicate us. **Let us set aside our own reasoning,** which expresses itself in returning the evil done to us. If we show a little **patience** and turn to **prayer**, the one who wronged us may be moved and come to his senses. God will see our patience, our struggle not to turn against our offender, and He will come to bless us.

Let us regard injustice as a trial that will greatly benefit us. God trains us in patience, in forgiveness, in gentleness, and in freedom from rancor.

Moreover, the one who wrongs us is our benefactor, since he helps us to improve. He helps us to see where we fall short, to cultivate ourselves spiritually, and to **mature.** Therefore, **we ought to think of him with gratitude,** like the physician whom God has sent to heal us. However bitter the feelings his actions provoke in us, we should see them as **healing remedies.** The more another person troubles us and wrongs us, the more opportunities for growth in Christ we have.

Who was more wronged than Christ? Were the Saints not wronged in their lives? Did injustice become an obstacle to their spiritual progress? The opposite occurred. Since they took the proper stance and humbled themselves, the injustices they suffered ultimately contributed to their sanctification.

In the end, whether we are wronged or not makes no real difference. Let us not take things as they appear on the surface. Let us not judge according to our weaknesses and our shortcomings. Let us make the surpassing step in our life. Let us seek love and not our own rights. And if we truly desire never to feel wronged, God will grant it to us!

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