

God Is Merciful

God is not a relentless sovereign who condemns the guilty, but a loving father whom we must love, not for fear of punishment, but for his kindness, his quickness to forgive.

Pope Benedict XVI

God is not only a Supreme Being of omnipotence, but Love itself. He is Love which did not stop loving us even when we sinned and turned away from Him. He is Love which cannot stop loving us.

Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi

It is not because I have been preserved from serious sin that I lift up my heart to God in trust and love. I am certain that even if I had on my conscience every imaginable sin, I should lose nothing of my confidence, but would throw myself, my heart broken with sorrow, into the arms of my Savior.

St. Therese of Lisieux

Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness. He pardons all your iniquities, he heals all your ills. He redeems your life from destruction, he crowns you with kindness and compassion. Not according to our sins does he deal with us. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us.

Psalms 103

God loves us in a way that we might call “obstinate” and enfolds us in his inexhaustible tenderness. The anger and mercy of the Lord alternate in a dramatic sequence, but love triumphs in the end, for God is love.

Pope Benedict XVI

Thanks be to God that it is Jesus Christ who is my judge, for he knows me better than I know myself and loves me more than I love myself. If only I would spend a few minutes prayerfully submitting myself to Jesus’ gaze and asking his forgiveness and grace, my fears would melt away and I would experience peace and joy.

Fr. W. Bry Shields

To forgive ourselves we need to believe that we are forgiven by God. We must meditate on God’s forgiveness of us. Even if you have to struggle to believe it, even if there are voices of guilt and shame screaming inside you, believe in the depths of your soul that you have been forgiven... Begin to see yourself as a child of God.

Benedict J. Groeschel, C.F.R.

It’s important to remember that the saints were not saints 24 hours a day. They went to confession, too. So if you do not always live up to your highest ideals, don’t be discouraged and don’t give up the struggle. Jesus calls you higher, but with a gentle smile. In the meanwhile, remember St. Augustine, who was a rather strict moralist in his day. He offered this kind advice: “Do what you can do and pray for what you cannot yet do.”

Fr. John Catoir

[No one, young people included, should be led to think that] it is possible all at once to live a 100 percent Christian life without doubts and sins. The Christian life is a continuing process of conversion, of stumbling, asking forgiveness and starting over. The process is a source of good for others as well because when someone experiences his own shortcomings and forgiveness of his faults, he finds it easier to accept the shortcomings of others and offer them pardon.

Pope Benedict XVI

[The apostles and first disciples weren't perfect, but had their own arguments and controversies.] This is very consoling to me, because we see that the saints did not drop as saints from heaven. They were men like us with problems and even, with sins.

Pope Benedict XVI

For me to be happy and confident, it is sufficient to know with assurance that in Jesus is my life and my death, that in spite of my sins I have placed my trust in him and shall not be disappointed.

Archbishop Oscar Romero

Jesus was more severe toward those who condemned the sinners than toward the sinners themselves. From the evidence in the Bible, being merciful appears to be an essential aspect of being in the image and likeness of God. Mercy is the form God's love takes in relation to sinners. After we have experienced it, we must demonstrate it to our brothers and sisters, both on the level of the church community as well as on a personal level.

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, Papal Preacher

By forgiving his executions, Jesus showed he is not the accuser of the guilty but rather their advocate and intercessor. Jesus' words of forgiveness – "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do" – were spoken in circumstances of the greatest hatred and cruelty. Jesus forgives His adversaries immediately, even as their hostility continues. Jesus is the defender, not the accuser of the guilty, because He knows that many can be less guilty than it appears, or one thinks. For this reason, he taught his followers not to judge others.

The mercy Jesus asked for His executioners is extended to all humanity.

Pope John Paul II

God loves his people more than a bridegroom his beloved; his love will be victorious over even the worst infidelities and will extend to his most precious gift: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son".

Catechism of the Catholic Church

You are not tempted because you are evil; you are tempted because you are human.

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Do not feel that all is lost because of the revolt you feel inside. It has rained hard. The thunder has crashed. Is the weather any less beautiful because of that? Be assured that you are not, for all that, less dear to Our Lord.

St. Vincent de Paul

God will forgive those who have forgiven. That is the law.

St. John Vianney

Practice patience toward everyone, and especially toward yourself. Never be disturbed because of your imperfections, but always get up bravely after a fall.

St. Francis de Sales

We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures. We are the sum of the Father's love for us and our real capacity to become the image of his Son.

Pope John Paul II

There is no one who cannot discover and find a place in God's love. From it flows our Christian hope. There exists no one so bad, so brought down, that he cannot find a place in that love.

Pope John Paul II

Should you fall even fifty times a day, never on any account should that surprise or worry you. Instead, ever so gently set your heart back in the right direction and practice the opposite virtue, all the time speaking words of love and trust to our Lord after you have committed a thousand faults, as much as if you had committed only one. Once we have humbled ourselves for the faults that God allows us to become aware of in ourselves, we must forget them and go forward.

St. Jane de Chantal

We should not become preoccupied with sin and unduly fearful of it. After all, it is part of our faith that Christ has conquered sin and it is, above all, trust in Him and love for Him that will keep us from sinning. And when His love is strong in our hearts, occasions for sinning will not find any room there or opportunity in our lives. Pope John Paul II put it this way: "This effort by the Church to help all the faithful form a moral conscience finds its support not so much in doctrinal statements and pastoral appeals to vigilance, as in constantly looking to the Lord Jesus."

Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb

In spite of our defects, God is in love with us, and keeps using you and me to be the light of love and compassion in the world. So give Jesus a big smile, and a big thank you!

Mother Teresa of Calcutta