



The year has almost come to the end and here we are all set to celebrate the most awaited season of the year, that is Christmas. Most of us perhaps may have already done with our preparations. The Christmas tree is all decked with tinsels, the lights are out, the Star is up, the Crib is ready, poinsettias are in full bloom adding to the decor, presents have been bought and Christmas parties may have already begun. But as the saying goes, "one who has not Christmas in the heart will never find it under the tree." My dear brothers and sisters this year let us ask ourselves do we really have Christmas in our hearts or have we lost it amidst the festivities?

The greatest message of Christmas is Love for St. John in his Gospel writes, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16). Christmas is the testimony of God's love towards us and Love is incomplete without Forgiveness. There is a short poem by Roy Lessin which I want to share with you,

"If our greatest need had been information,
God would have sent us an educator.
If our greatest need had been technology,
God would have sent us a scientist.
If our greatest need had been money,
God would have sent us an economist.
If our greatest need had been pleasure,
God would have sent us an entertainer.
But our greatest need was Forgiveness
So God sent us a Saviour."





Forgiveness is a fundamental Christian virtue. When we pray the Lord's Prayer we say "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." But how can we seek forgiveness if we ourselves are not willing to forgive. It is true that forgiving isn't easy. we are all humans and none of us is perfect but we have the Perfect Father who is ever forgiving and merciful. Made in His image and likeness we too must strive to emulate His teachings in our lives. Forgiveness is one of them. Without forgiveness there is no love and without love the spirit of Christmas loses all its meaning.

There may be discord amongst our friends and families, in our communities, our SCCs, our workplaces etc. There may be forgiveness to be given and forgiveness to be sought. This Christmas let us humble ourselves and go to the manger, let us take the present of a forgiving heart and leaving behind all ill feelings let us come together to adore the newborn King. "Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus." We can never make room for Jesus if our hearts are filled with anger and disharmony, if there is no forgiveness in us. This Christmas is there room for Jesus in our hearts?

