

Today's first reading and gospel offer us a very practical way to be reconciled with another. It may seem harsh at first and even move us out of our comfort zone, but it calls us to live what St. Paul calls the highest Law, the law of LOVE.

This Law of LOVE is inclusive and forgiving and merciful. It isn't easy, and it is not for the faint of heart. It is the day in and day out commitment to be faithful to a spouse or a friend, to a community or to a cause. It is staying in the conversation through the misunderstandings and the judgements.

Love is forgiving, not harboring negative feelings toward another, AND not putting ourselves at risk with someone who has been violent or abusive toward us. Love is setting boundaries...loving and respecting ourselves and well as others.

Love involves constant conversation, much prayer and at times professional or pastoral consultation. By embracing this path, we risk having our hearts broken...and we risk being reconciled.

Today let us ponder what the highest Law means for us and pray that we may take a first step in forgiving another, God, and even ourselves.