

Hey Mike,

There was a scenario that happened among some friends and I and it has caused much hurt and pain. I have apologized for my portion and have asked for forgiveness from the others. In turn, I have forgiven them for the actions and words that were spoken by them. However, I am finding that the others will not forgive me and choose not to talk about it (and have moved on although we are not talking) and I am finding that I am having episodes of anger against them because of their unwillingness to solve things. Does this mean that I have not truly forgiven them and that I am fooling myself? Also, does this mean that I continue to try to get their forgiveness or do I let them have their space?

It is difficult to admit an error and take responsibility. You have already taken this very important step. When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we ask Him to forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. We cannot ascertain the degree of forgiveness others have for us. Rather, focus on the sins you want God to forgive for you. If the mistake you made is repetitive, work on it so it does not become a character flaw. Ask God to help you overcome any residual bitterness you may have in your heart regarding this matter so it does not interfere with your spiritual life. You can give your friends some space but still remain kind and friendly. Continue this dialogue with your spiritual father in confession. Your personal relationship with God is far more important than any other.

What is the churches view on playing Karate? Can I take it as a sport or hobby? Can I join a club that might even have an evil dragon sign? If I do not care about their philosophy/ religion or whatever is it okay? Can I join a club that does not have an evil sign on the karate outfit?

It is commendable that you are concerned about the choices you have before you. Prayer and asking for spiritual advice is the right track to follow. As a rule, any activity that compromises or diverts you from your spiritual path is not worth traveling.

Involvement in sports is generally a good pastime. Sports can help to build teamwork, leadership, and good sportsmanship. Karate is different, in that regard, because it is for the most part an individual sport. To attract and excite customers, some clubs do promote evil logos. It is advised that if this is the sport in which you want to participate, research a facility that does not use negative ads or promotions, neither imposes a particular questionable philosophy.

A background check on the history of Karate identifies it mainly as a self-defense sport which does not employ the use weapons. Martial Arts, in general, include disciplines which exercise physical and mental energy as self-defense or relaxation techniques. The purpose of the symbolic use of animals, such as, the dragon, cheetah, snake, etc., stress the methods used by these animals in battle and for survival.

There is some concern regarding this sport when it goes too far. Participants are deceived about their own ability, becoming self-absorbed, self-sufficient, self-confident, self-reliant, and independent of God. Rather than imitating the gentleness and meekness of Christ, the angels that praise Him, and the saints who trusted in Him, they resort to the tactics of animals. See the real inner strength of the Three Youth (The Book of Daniel) who had the greatest confidence in God. You, too, can be more like them.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king (Daniel 3:16-17). Look! He answered, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God (Daniel 3:25).

Ask Me.

if you have a question
about ANYTHING,

send it to:

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