

Joint Diaconate and Session Meeting
June 28, 2015

Opening Unison Prayer:

Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being: You have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you. Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness keep us from doing it; that in your light we may see clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom.

We pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth in all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in any thing it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for we offer our prayer in the strong name of Jesus Christ your Son and our Savior. Amen.

Scripture Reading:

I Corinthians 6:9-10

“Do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived! Fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, sodomites (homosexual offenders-NIV), thieves, the greedy, drunkards, revilers, robbers – none of these will inherit the kingdom of God. And this is what some of you used to be. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.” NRSV

Context:

Paul is addressing the difficulties of the Corinthian church throughout the last few chapters. They are sexually immoral, they are greedy, they are taking each other to court and he lumps all of these things into a category called, wrongdoing. According to Paul, these wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God if they continue to live in this manner.

Break up into small groups of 4 (2 elders and 2 deacons)

In your small group:

1. How does this text strike you? Do you feel set apart from the list, or do you feel you are included in it? You don't have to confess your sins, but explain why or why not.
2. Paul says, "And this is what some of you used to be." What do you think Paul is trying to communicate to those in the church in Corinth through this passage?
3. What does it mean to repent of our sin? What role does repentance play in our spiritual lives? Does Jesus require repentance? Why or why not?
4. Think for a moment about the gospel accounts. Is homosexuality ever mentioned in them? What does Jesus have to say about sexual sin? Does Jesus ever encounter anyone in sexual sin and if so, how does he respond to them and how do they respond to him?
5. Close your group time in prayer together.