



Forgive Us

Lord, sometimes the world seems to be a dark place. There are always people promoting gloom and doom, looking for threats and conspiracies under every rock, and working to convince us that no one can be trusted. We are told the world is divided

between 'us' and 'them' and getting rid of 'them' is the only thing that will make things better. The idea of working together for the good of all gets lost when people refuse to even acknowledge that those with different views may have some good ideas too; ideas that deserve a chance to work and should be celebrated when they do. Forgive us when we fall into this dark trap. Forgive us when we are tempted to make 'No' our first, even our only response to anything new or challenging, or different. Forgive us when we refuse to learn from the past. Forgive us when we put ideology above people and forget that God made all of us and gave all of us the ability to think and reason. Remind us that God gave us the ability to choose to put love and understanding not hate and suspicion first when we deal with other people. Remind us that your first commandment is to love and honor You. Remind us that Jesus said the second commandment is just as important – love your neighbor as you love yourself. Remind us that when we focus on looking for gloom and doom, that is what we will find. However, if we look for the things we have in common instead of our differences; if we look for reasons for hope, acts of compassion, and caring people, that is what we will find! Help us to see the world through Your eyes. Amen

This week pray for:

- **Nigeria** Members of EYN, The Church of the Brethren in Nigeria, report that the security situation is getting worse in northeastern Nigeria. Boko Haram attacks continue and more people have had to flee their homes. Continue to keep the people of Nigeria in your prayers.
- **Mass Shooting victims from the shooting May 30th in Virginia Beach.** There have already been 156 mass shootings this year. 167 people have been killed and 604 people have been injured.
- **People dealing with the aftermath of storms and flooding**
- **The victims of U.S. Drone strikes.** Most are civilians and these strikes are happening in many places in the world. The majority are carried out, not by the military, but by the CIA. We no longer know how many countries are affected or how many people die because the Trump administration is now keeping all information about drone attacks secret.



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