

Take a
Moment to
Pray for
Peace!



And You Still Love Us!

Oh God, I cringe at some of the things your people do in your name! If I cringe, I cannot imagine how you feel!

You knew the risk when you gave people a will of their own and the ability to make their own choices.

You must have hoped the goodness you created in us would prevail. You declared people good, along with all your creation. You have always kept covenant with us. It is only we who have

broken it over and over again. And every time we do, the result is great hurt; pain; death; destruction. . .

We are at our worst when we *claim* we are doing cruel, inhumane, even unspeakable things in your name. . . forgetting you are a God of love not of hate – that you love each individual, even the humble sparrow – not just some abstract ideal.

We are at our worst when we assume the role of “superior being”, putting our needs/wants first – and think you want it that way. . .

We are at our worst when we try to take on the role of judge (a role you reserved for yourself) and condemn other people for doing the same things we often do ourselves in similar circumstances.

You tried to warn us about specks and logs – but we forget; or were not listening. We ignore the logs firmly in our eyes and the self-righteousness you were warning against.

How can you continue to love us when we turn a blind eye to or actually take life, wage war, tear apart families, let people starve, abuse children, enslave people, pray on the helpless, live by greed, force our ways on others, destroy your creation, bully, dominate, and commit all manner of wrongs over and over and over again?

Why is it so hard for us to let your message of love sink in? The love you have for us and call us to **embrace and share** is love that is so much bigger than our understanding. It is love that accepts us with all our faults and **includes both mercy and forgiveness**. It is a love that does not condone or enable our worst selves, but also does not condemn us or cast us away because of our wrongs. It is love that continually calls us to *repent and seek your forgiveness, so we can return to being our best selves* – the people you created us to be.

You call us to be people for whom cringing at human cruelty and evil is not enough. Speaking out on behalf of the poor, the weak, the disenfranchised, and the forgotten people in our world is not an optional activity. Repenting for our role in these human wrongs and using all our abilities and resources to help those in need and work to end cruelty, hate, and the abuse of any of the people you made is at the core of our calling as your followers. Help us find our voice and take up this work you are calling us to do!

This week pray for:

Children and parents fleeing violence and persecution, especially families being separated.

The Global Mission & Service office has requested prayer for an end to the violence & suffering in Yemen, which is in its 4th year of civil war. “Many consider Yemen to be the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.” Some 8 million people are on the brink of famine & more than 1 million have been infected in a cholera epidemic considered the worst in history. The aid group Save the Children estimates that in 2017, more than 50,000 children died of starvation, malnutrition, or disease.’ In June, the situation worsened as fighting centered around Hodeida, a large port city that serves as the only remaining major entry point for humanitarian aid, after a blockade closed other access points.

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