
CHALLENGED TO RECONCILE

RECOGNITION, IMAGINATION, COMPASSION, CONVERSION

- Let us pray that our eyes will be opened to recognize the brokenness and hunger of others, even those who inflict hurt on us.
- Let us use our power of imagination to ask 'What would it be like to be in the shoes of those whom society pushes aside?'
- May the God of compassion empower us to a compassionate response when we encounter difficulty and conflict.
- May we be blessed with conversion of heart and always give witness to the surprising graciousness of God.

With Abigail and all who challenge us to reconcile let us pray the words of David,

**CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD,
AND PUT A NEW SPIRIT WITHIN ME.
PSALM 51:10**

As you pray this prayer, stay with each phrase awhile and make it your own.

See what you need to recognise. Try to imagine an alternative possibility for a situation that troubles you. Ask for a heart that is compassionate and decide with Jesus how to change and transform your life

**Create in me a clean heart, open and receptive, so that I may embrace the many ways you choose to visit my life.
Create in me a clean heart, cleared of the refuse of old battles with others and deadly opposition with myself.
Create in me a clean heart, purified through the daily disruptions and the life encounters that take me beyond my grasping control and ego-centredness.**

Create in me a clean heart, freed from the clutter of cultural enticements, so that I can enjoy the beauty of life's simple things and relish the gifts I easily take for granted.

Create in me a clean heart, bathed from harsh thoughts, shame and perfectionistic tendencies, warmly welcoming others with the embrace of nonjudgement.

Create in me a clean heart, brushed free of frantic busyness, so that I will have time to dwell with you in the listening space of solitude and silence.

Create in me a clean heart, rinsed of the residue of false messages about my identity, enabling my inner goodness and light to shine through all I am and do.

Create in me a clean heart, cleansed of anxiety and lack of trust, restoring in me an enduring faith in your abiding presence and unconditional love.

Create in me a clean heart, scrubbed of racism and prejudice, drawing me toward all as my sisters and brothers.

Create in me a clean heart, washed with your mercy and strengthened by your love, helping me move beyond whatever keeps me from union with you..

Joyce Rupp

The way of conversion of heart
Jesus says in his society there is a new way for (people) to live:
You show wisdom, by trusting people:
You handle leadership, by serving:
You handle offenders, by forgiving:
You handle money, by sharing:
You handle enemies, by loving
And you handle violence, by suffering.

In fact you have a new attitude toward everything, toward everybody. Toward nature, toward the state in which you happen to live, toward women, toward slaves, toward all and every single thing. Because this is a Jesus society and you repent, not by feeling bad, but by thinking different.

Rudy Wiebe, The Blue Mountains of China

