

PRAYER OF CONFESSION, REPENTANCE and FORGIVENESS

Loving Father, Wise Creator, the Most High God,

You are *“worthy to receive all glory and honour and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they were created and have their being”*.¹

You are *“the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love. You do not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities”*.²

We give thanks and praise to You that *“while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”*.³ For You *“so loved the world that You gave Your one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life”*.⁴

Thank You that Your Word assures us that nothing *“will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord”* and that *“we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us”*.⁵

Thank You for the precious privilege of interceding for our Australian society knowing that the *“Holy Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express”* and that Jesus is at Your right hand and *“is also interceding for us”*.⁶

Holy God, we now confess our part in not dealing with those things in our society that have made us susceptible to the Culture of Darkness and Death. We bring before You our actions and lack of actions which have undermined the Judeo-Christian foundations of religious freedom, marriage and family and the sanctity of human life.

- We confess our part in **looking to the wisdom of man** and not *“humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God”* as set out in our Constitution. We are sorry for our ingratitude for all the blessings You have bestowed upon us. In our affluence we have vainly imagined that we do not need You. O God, forgive us.

¹ Revelation 4:11

² Psalm 103:8-10

³ Romans 5:8

⁴ John 3:16

⁵ Romans 8:37-39

⁶ Romans 8:26,34

- We confess **our hardness of heart** toward the wanton and widespread killing of Aboriginal men, women and children in our nation's history. The lawless and unbridled hunting down of individuals and massacres of whole communities is a national disgrace that we have tried to minimise or ignore in our history books. We have failed to adequately recognise the horror of this shedding of blood by our forefathers. We have not adequately empathised with the sorrow that has come down through the generations in Aboriginal communities. O God we are sorry! Break our hearts and unblock the tears which need to flow from our eyes.
- We confess our **prayerlessness in regard to the on-going effects of the Sexual or Cultural Revolution of the 1960s**. This rebellion against You separated sex and procreation from marriage as You ordained in the beginning. It is now pushing for abortion on demand for any reason up until the day of birth. We are sorry for not resisting Satan, the instigator of the Sexual Revolution, as we ought. In our apathy we have let things spiral down. Please forgive us.
- We confess our **complacency with no-fault divorce** to the extent that the number of divorces have dramatically increased since the Sexual Revolution. We are sorry that the divorce rate amongst Christians is also high. This has left behind a legacy of fatherless or motherless homes. Many young children are living with undeserved rejection and disillusionment, blaming themselves for the break-up of their parents. They have not been listened to and their lives have been permanently scarred. We have lacked real empathy. Have mercy on us.
- We confess our **silence in allowing legalised prostitution to go unchallenged**. This sends the message that sex outside a marriage relationship is wholly acceptable. Many times sexual union results in unwanted pregnancies that end up as abortions. Often couples do not know that sex is a sacred part of the mystical one flesh union of a husband and wife. Since the Sexual Revolution, sex has been reduced to a commodity that can be purchased in any registered brothel. We have not adequately confronted this evil. Please forgive us.
- We confess **distancing ourselves from those caught in a homosexual lifestyle**. We confess our part in rejecting men and women, made in Your image, who are ensnared in homosexuality.

Please forgive us. Fill us with Your unconditional love and move us to help them to be set free.

- We confess our **indifference to the teaching of atheistic evolution in our schools**. This unproven worldview has convinced a whole generation since the Sexual Revolution that they are just another animal on the evolutionary ladder. We are sorry that we have allowed our schools to continue teaching that man is just a cosmic accident and that emotions such as love are just evolutionary mechanisms which help to ensure the survival of the fittest. Without You, life is meaningless. Without You, there is no accountability for how we live and no right or wrong. In our dullness we have not spoken out. Please forgive us.
- We confess our part in **allowing the insidious pornification of our society**. This means that a whole generation since the Sexual Revolution cannot escape early and frequent exposure. Indeed our society has been so saturated with pornography that our collective attitude toward sex has been poisoned with perversion, violence and self-gratification. We are appalled at what goes into our children's minds through television, the internet and public advertising. Such things have hastened the sexualisation of our children and robbed them of their childhood. For too long we have been looking the other way. Have mercy on us.
- We confess our **lack of outrage for the shedding of innocent blood of unborn babies through abortion**. This has wiped out a third of a whole generation since the Sexual Revolution. We are saddened that more and more children and young adults are realising that they are the 'survivors' that their parents' generation chose not to kill. This conditions survivor children to more readily recommend euthanasia for their parents when they become elderly or otherwise 'inconvenient'. We mourn for the atrocious and deliberate killing of approximately 4 million unborn Australian babies. As Christians we have lived with that reality and have turned a blind eye. Our hearts cry out! O God, we are sorry. Have mercy on us. Help us to *"speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves"*.⁷
- We, believing that human life begins at conception, confess our part in the **abandonment of newly-conceived babies to modern technologies**; those mercilessly killed in abortion procedures and consigned to waste bins and incinerators; those killed and expelled

⁷ Proverbs 31:8

from their mother's womb by abortifacient drugs such as RU486; those that are stored as embryos in freezers for the possibility of future use and later quietly destroyed; those placed in test tubes for embryonic stem cell, genetics and cosmetics research. It is an ironic tragedy that innocent lives are killed in order to make life better for others. O God we are sorry. Deal with our callous hearts. Forgive us and have mercy on us.

Your Word says *“Seek the LORD while He may be found; call on Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God for He will freely pardon”*.⁸ Your Word also declares that You are patient with us *“not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance”*.⁹ We therefore now repent and turn from these sins.

We ask You Father to have mercy on us and forgive us. Give us wisdom, discernment and strength to resist the continuation of these sins that have shaped a whole new generation since the Sexual Revolution. Burden our hearts in such a way that we take steps to overcome these evils. Help us to make restitution or restoration where these are needed. Jesus, who has shown us the way, is the answer! Please also move us to forgive and have compassion on those who are perpetrators of these things. In many cases they do not know what they are doing. Stir us to pray and fast for revival so that the Church and society will be transformed by Your Holy Spirit. Then the Culture of Light and Life will be gloriously evident once again throughout our society.

In the Name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

⁸ Isaiah 55:6-7

⁹ 2 Peter 3:9