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UNOFFENDABLE
GIVING UP YOUR "RIGHT" TO BE ANGRY
June 19 Outdoor Service

We Christians often think we are entitled to be angry. We are angry with the way people mistreat us. We are offended by sinful lifestyles in our society. But are we entitled to this anger? What if Christians were the most unoffendable people on the planet? Could it be that giving up our right to be angry over every and any offense could be our greatest witness to the power of Jesus Christ in our lives?



WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S

Thank you for joining us in worship. Please complete a Connection Card so we can provide God's people here at St. Paul's with the best spiritual care. You can also fill out the card online by scanning the QR Code on the left.

OPENING SONG

O That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
To keep His statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace
To know and do His will!

Order my footsteps by Thy Word
And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord,
But keep my conscience clear.

Assist my soul, too apt to stray,
A stricter watch to keep;
And should I e'er forget Thy way,
Restore Thy wandering sheep.

Make me to walk in Thy commands,--
'Tis a delightful road,--
Nor let my head or heart or hands
Offend against my God.

In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, Jesus invites us, who are weary and burdened by our sin, to come to him and find rest for our souls. Let us, therefore, confess our sins to him, so that we may find renewal and strength in his forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior, Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The works of the Lord are great and glorious. His name is worthy of praise.

SONG

Forgiven

I'm the one who held the nail
It was cold between my fingertips
I've hidden in the garden
I've denied You with my very lips
God, I fall down to my knees
With a hammer in my hand
You look at me, arms open

Forgiven, forgiven
Child there is freedom from all of it
Say goodbye to every sin
You are forgiven

I've done things I wish I hadn't done
I've seen things I wish I hadn't seen
Just the thought of Your amazing grace
And I cry, "Jesus, forgive me!"
God, I fall down to my knees
With a hammer in my hand
You look at me, arms open

Forgiven, forgiven
Child there is freedom from all of it
Say goodbye to every sin
You are forgiven

I could've been six feet under
I could've been lost forever
Yeah I should be in that fire
But now there's fire inside of me
Here I am a dead man walking
No grave gonna hold God's people
All the weight of all our evil
Lifted away forever free
Who could believe, who could believe?

Forgiven, forgiven
You love me even when I don't deserve it
Forgiven, I'm Forgiven
Jesus Your blood makes me innocent
So I will say goodbye to every sin
I am forgiven
I am forgiven

FIRST LESSON

James 1:19-27

James warns us that human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

¹⁹My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

²²Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

²⁶Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

*The woman had been caught in the act! Didn't the Pharisees have a "right" to be offended?
Haven't we often played the role of the Pharisee?*

² At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. ³ The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group ⁴ and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" ⁶ They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. ⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸ Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

⁹ At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. ¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

¹¹ "No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

SONG

Jesus Friend of Sinners

Jesus, friend of sinners, we have strayed so far away
We cut down people in Your name, but the sword was never ours to swing
Jesus, friend of sinners, the truth's become so hard to see
The world is on their way to You, but they're trippin' over me
Always lookin' around, but never lookin' up, I'm so double minded
A plank eyed saint with dirty hands and a heart divided

Oh, Jesus, friend of sinners
Open our eyes to the world at the end of our pointing fingers
Oh, let our hearts be led by mercy
Help us reach with open hearts and open doors
Oh, Jesus, friend of sinners, break our hearts for what breaks Yours

Jesus, friend of sinners, the one who's writing in the sand
Made the righteous turn away and the stones fall from their hands
Help us to remember we are all the least of these
Let the memory of Your mercy bring Your people to their knees
Nobody knows what we're for, only what we're against when we judge the wounded
What if we put down our signs, crossed over the lines and love like You did?

Oh, Jesus, friend of sinners
Open our eyes to the world at the end of our pointing fingers
And let our hearts be led by mercy
Help us reach with open hearts and open doors
Oh, Jesus, friend of sinners, break our hearts for what breaks Yours

You love every lost cause, You reach for the outcast (every outcast)
For the leper and the lame; they're the reason that You came
Lord, I was that lost cause (I was that lost cause) and I was the outcast (and I was the outcast)
But You died for sinners just like me, a grateful leper at Your feet
'Cause You are good, oh, You are good and Your love endures forever
Oh, You are good, You are good and Your love, endures forever
Oh, You are good, yes, You are good and Your love endures forever
Oh, You are good, oh, You are good and Your love endures forever

Jesus, friend of sinners
Open our eyes to the world at the end of our pointing fingers
But let our hearts be led by mercy
Help us reach with open hearts and open doors
Oh, Jesus, friend of sinners, break our hearts for what breaks Yours

²⁶“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you for reconciling us to yourself through the sufferings and death of your dear Son.

Through him we have confidence to enter your presence and to bring you our prayers and petitions.

Out of the infinite bounty of your goodness, grant us a rich measure of your Spirit.

Let the love of Christ fill your Church, so that it may flourish in all good works.

Help us show love and compassion for all who are in need. Bestow on the nations of the earth the knowledge of your mercy, that they may turn to you, the only God, and find salvation in you.

Strengthen our faith so that we unfailingly come to you in prayer for all our bodily needs.

Give a special measure of your power to those who are sorrowful or mourning, to those who are in pain or sickness, to those who may be in temptation or peril, that they may receive your blessed aid.

Special prayers and intercessions.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Help us patiently endure any chastening and afflictions you permit to come into our lives,

knowing that you are using them in love to prepare us for that joyful communion with you, which is ours for all eternity.

Accept our prayers and intercessions, and provide for all our needs not because we are worthy but for the sake of Jesus, our Savior.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING SONG

To God Be the Glory

Refrain

Praise the Lord Praise the Lord, Let the earth hear his voice

Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son

And give him the glory great things he has done

To God be the glory, great things he has done

He so loved the world, That he gave us His Son

Who yielded his life, An atonement for sin

And opened the life gate, That all may go in

Praise the Lord Praise the Lord, Let the earth hear his voice

Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son

And give him the glory great things he has done

Great Things he has taught us, Great things he has done

And great our rejoicing, Through Jesus the Son

But purer and higher, And greater will be

Our joy and our wonder, When Jesus we see

Refrain

Refrain