



Wednesday Prayer

Reformation Sunday – Truth takes us in unexpected directions

***Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”
John 8:31-32***

When it comes to sex trafficking and sexual exploitation, the truth is many-faceted. The obvious truth is that children and youth are being seriously harmed. Our prayers for all youth are needed and our additional efforts to prevent them from succumbing to predators and to help them leave and heal after exploitation are desperately needed. But continuing in Jesus’ word requires us to continue to dig for further truths, and finding the truth draws us into the act of reforming.

What are the underlying truths behind sex trafficking? Why are men (primarily) drawn to buy sex from children and youth and how can we educate and advocate to change the driving forces and root causes of sex trafficking? How can we better support, educate and advocate for parents and families so children and youth don’t end up living on the streets, turning to desperate measures to attain food and shelter? How do our businesses and government’s exploitive practices and policies prevent workers’ abilities around the world to make a living wage, forcing them to sell themselves or their children into the sex trade? How do we all participate in these truths directly or indirectly? In what ways do we all need to be saved?

The truth is complicated, as is discipleship. Continuing in Jesus’ word as disciples, the truth takes us in unexpected directions. When we see these truths, then we can take steps to reform the systems, the customers, the businesses, the governments and move away from exploitation toward safety and freedom. Our faith in Jesus frees us from our sin, and with Christ’s love and acceptance, we can see the truth and live a life working toward a world renewed, reformed and free.

Gracious and loving God, we give thanks for your unending love that reforms us individually and collectively as your church on earth each and every day. As we continue in your word, open our eyes to the truths before us. Stir up the power of the Holy Spirit so that we continue the important task of reforming through praying, educating, advocating and acting. All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who died to set us free and who loves us without end. Amen.

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