

SINS THAT DEFILE

Fornication - In the Old Testament fornication referred to any form of idolatry or worship of idols. It often involved sexual intercourse with temple prostitutes, both female and male, particularly young boys. Currently, it means sexual intercourse, including oral or anal intercourse, between a male and female of any age, neither of whom is married.

Wicked designs, evil thoughts, or evil ideas against another person or persons.

Theft - an act or instance of stealing.

Murder - the unlawful killing of one human being by another, especially with premeditated malice. It includes abortion and "mercy killing".

Adultery and adulterous conduct - voluntary sexual intercourse or activity between a married person and a partner other than the lawful spouse.

Greed or covetousness - an excessive desire to acquire or possess, as wealth or power, beyond what one needs or deserves.

Maliciousness - a desire to harm others or to see others suffer.

Wickedness - viciousness or depravity in word or action.

Deceit - the act or practice of causing a person to believe what is not true. It involves falsehood or the deliberate concealment or misrepresentation of truth with the intent to lead another *who has a right to know* into error or into disadvantage.

Sensuality - excessive devotion to gratification of the physical appetites, especially the sexual appetite.

Licentiousness - lack of moral discipline or sexual restraint; no regard for accepted rules or standards.

Indecency - offensiveness to good taste or public moral values.

Envy or jealousy - a feeling of discontent and resentment aroused by another's desirable possessions or qualities accompanied by a strong desire to have them for oneself.

Blasphemy - a contemptuous or profane act, utterance, or writing concerning God; claiming for oneself the attributes or rights of God; speaking of God or something sacred in an irreverent or impious way.

Slander - utterance of defamatory statements injurious to the reputation or well being of a person; a malicious statement or report.

Arrogance - over-conviction of one's own importance; haughty self-importance.

Pride - an excessively high opinion of oneself; conceit.

Foolishness - lack of good sense or judgment.

Folly - lack of good sense, understanding, or foresight.

An obtuse spirit - lacking keenness or quickness in comprehending or discerning.

Lewd conduct - preoccupation with sex and sexual desires; lustfulness.

Immoral actions - actions contrary to established moral principles.

Filthy actions - actions or language considered obscene, immoral, or obsessively concerned with matters of a sexual nature or with an obsessive interest in sex.

Idolatry - the worship of an image or other material object representing a deity to which religious worship is addressed; blind adoration of, reverence for, or devotion to any person or thing, e.g. movie, rock, or sports star; material possessions.

Sorcery or witchcraft - the art, practices, or spells of one supposed to exercise supernatural powers through evil spirits; magic, especially black magic, in which supernatural powers are exercised through the aid of evil spirits. The art or practices of a witch, whether white or black. It includes also consulting psychics, astrology, ouija boards, and other means of divination.

Hostilities or enmity - animosity, ill will, unfriendliness, antagonism, feelings or conditions of hostility, hatred, or bitterness.

Bickering or strife - engaging in petulant arguments, quarreling, conflict, or discord.

Anger or outbursts of rage - a revengeful passion or emotion directed against one who inflicts a real or supposed wrong.

Selfishness - self-seeking, egotism.

Ambitiousness - excessive desire to obtain power, superiority, or distinction.

Dissension - violent disagreement or discord.

Partisan or party spirit - party strife or intrigue, often using unscrupulous methods to accomplish selfish purposes.

Drunkenness - a willful loss of control over physical or mental powers by means of alcoholic liquor, a drug, or other substance.

Orgies or carousing - wild, drunken, or licentious festivities, parties, or revelry; any proceedings marked by unbridled indulgence of passions; secret rites or ceremonies connected with the worship of evil spirits or Satan celebrated with wild dancing and singing, drinking, drugs, or sexual excesses.

A CELEBRATION OF RECONCILIATION

A PRAYER OF SURRENDER

Jesus, I acknowledge that I was born in a condition of separation from God because of the Original Sin of disobedience by our first parents and am, therefore, a

sinner both by nature and by choice. In your Word, the Scriptures, you have said that *"it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly, impurity, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, defile a person."* Mark7:20-23; Galatians 5:19-21

No wonder my life is such a mess! It is full of *dissensions, factions, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. All these evil things come from within* and many of those things, and I have been content to do nothing about them.

But Jesus, you took all these upon yourself and died on the cross even though you were never guilty of any of them yourself. By your death on the cross you bridged the gulf between man and God. You became the bridge over which I can cross from death to life and thus be reconciled with the Father. You desire to save me from this human nature and from eternal damnation. You want to give me instead a share in your divine nature.

Jesus, I am tired of going nowhere. I acknowledge that I am really not in control of my life at all. I have been letting all these things you said are part of my human nature control me. I confess, Lord, and agree with you that I have not made much of my life.

Jesus, I repent of my sinful nature and life. I turn around from the direction I have been going. I ask your forgiveness for my stubbornness and my unwillingness to let you be Savior and Lord. Jesus, have mercy on me and forgive me, a sinner!

I give up my struggle to be somebody when, in reality, I now realize that I am nothing apart from you. I surrender to you, Jesus, and to your perfect plan for my life. I receive and accept you as my Savior and Lord. Reconcile me to your Father.

Fill me with the new life for which you died and rose from the dead. Make me the new creation that you want me to be. 1 Corinthians 5:17 & 18. Fill me with new life and power through your holy Spirit whom you and the Father have sent and through whom I also can say, "Abba, my Father, my Daddy."

Bring forth in me the fruit of your Spirit: the fruit of love, of joy, of peace, of patience, of kindness, of generosity, of faithfulness, of gentleness, of self-control. Galatians 5:22 & 23

Thank you, Lord Jesus. And when I slip back into one of the sins of my old human nature, which I will at times, help me to turn quickly to you and ask your forgiveness because you have promised to forgive me if only I confess my sins to you and repent of them. 1 John 1:9

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name"

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

I praise you, Lord.
I sing for joy to you, O God, who protect me.
I come before you with thanksgiving
and sing joyful songs of praise.
For you, O Lord, are a mighty God -
a mighty King over all the gods.
You rule over the sea, which you made;
the land also, which you made;

I bow down and worship you;
I kneel before you, Lord, my Maker!
You are my God.
I am the one you care for, for whom you provide.
I will listen today to what you say.
Psalm 95:1-7

Praise the Lord, my soul!
All my being, praise his holy name!
Praise the Lord, my soul,
and do not forget how kind God is.
You, O God, forgive all my sins
and heal all my diseases.
You keep me from the grave
and bless me with love and mercy.
You fill my life with good things
so that I stay young and strong like an eagle.
I was on my way to hell, but you restored my life.
You have changed my sadness into a joyful dance.
You have taken away my sorrow
and surrounded me with joy
so I will not be silent;
I will sing praise to you.
Lord, you are my God;
I will give you thanks forever.
Psalm 30:1-3, 11-12

I praise you, Lord, because you are good.
I sing praise to your Name because you are kind.
You, my God, are great, greater than all the gods.
You do whatever you wish in heaven and on earth,
in the sea and in the depths below.
You bring storm clouds from the ends of the earth,
you make lightning from the storms,
and you bring out the wind from your storeroom.
You, Lord, will defend me. You will take pity
on your servant.
Psalm 135:3, 5-7, 14

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart;
I sing praise to you before the gods.
I bow down and praise your name
because of your constant love and faithfulness,
because you have shown that your name
and your commands are supreme.
You answer me when I call to you;
with all your strength you strengthen me.

Even though you are so high above,
you care for the lowly,
and the proud cannot hide from you.
When I am surrounded by troubles,
you keep me safe.
You oppose my angry enemies
and save me by your power.
You will do everything you have promised.
Lord, your love is eternal.
Complete the work you have begun.
Psalm 138:1-3, 6-8

I am like an olive tree
growing in your house, O God.
I trust in your constant love
forever and ever.
I will always thank you, Lord,
for what you have done;
in the presence of your people
I will proclaim that you are good.
Psalm 52:8 & 9

***"Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth
as in heaven."***

ACCEPTANCE OF GOD'S WILL

Lord, it is your will

to show mercy to whomever you choose, to have pity on whomever you wish.
to destroy the wisdom of the wise and to thwart the cleverness of the clever.
to bring to light what is hidden in darkness and to manifest the intentions of
hearts.
to put your law in our hearts and to write them on our minds.
to draw close to us as we draw close to you.
to dwell with us and walk among us, to be our God and for us to be your people.
to refresh all who are weary and find life burdensome, if they come to you.
for those who do the will of the Father to enter the Kingdom of God.
to pour out a portion of your Spirit on all mankind.
that not a single one of your little ones shall ever come to grief.
to never desert us nor forsake us.
that we grow in holiness, that we abstain from immorality, and that we refrain
from overreaching or cheating our brother or sister.
for us to rejoice always, to never cease praying, and to render constant thanks.
to hear us when we ask for anything according to your will.
for us to be obedient to every human institution.
that those who suffer as your will requires continue in good deeds and entrust
their lives to you, a faithful Creator.

You, O Lord, are King.
You are clothed with majesty and strength.
Your throne, O Lord, has been firm
from the beginning,
and you existed before time began.
Psalm 93:1 & 2

"Give us today our daily bread."

PETITION AND INTERCESSION

Lord, you are my Lord.
All good things I have come from you.
You, Lord, are all I have,
and you give me all I need,
My future is in your hands.
How wonderful are your gifts to me,
how good they are.
I praise you, Lord, because you guide me,
and in the night my conscience warns me.
I am always aware of your presence.
You are near, and nothing can shake me.
And so I am thankful and glad
and feel completely secure
because you protect me from the power of death.
The one you love you will not abandon
to the world of the dead.
You will show me the path that leads to life.
Your presence fills me with joy
and brings me pleasure forever.
Psalm 16:2, 5-11

Have pity, O Lord, on your servant.
Fill me each morning with your constant love
so that I may sing and be glad all my life.
Give me now as much happiness
as the sadness you allowed me
during all my years of misery.
Let me, your servant, see your mighty deeds.
Let my descendants see your glorious might.
Lord, my God, may your blessings be with me.
Give me success in all I do!
Psalm 90:13-17

*"Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us."*

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SINFULNESS

Lord, I look up to you,
up to heaven where you rule.
As a servant depends on his master,
as a maid depends on her mistress,
so will I keep looking to you,
O Lord my God,
until you have mercy on me.
Be merciful to me, Lord, be merciful.
Psalm 123:1-3

Lord, you examine me and know me.
You know everything I do;
from far away you understand all my thoughts.
You see me, whether I am working or resting;
you know all my actions.
Even before I speak,
you already know what I will say.
You are all around me on every side;
you protect me with your power.
Your knowledge of me is too deep;
it is beyond my understanding.
Where could I go to escape from you?
Where could I get away from your presence?
If I went up to heaven, you would be there.
If I lay down in the world of the dead,
you would be there.
If I flew away beyond the east
or lived in the farthest place in the west,
you would be there to lead me,
you would be there to help me.
I could ask the darkness to hide me
or the light around me to turn into night,
but even darkness is not dark for you,
and the night is as bright as the day.
Darkness and light are the same to you.
You created every part of me;
you put me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you because you are to be feared;
all you do is strange and wonderful.
I know it with all my heart.
When my bones were being formed,
carefully put together in my mother's womb,
when I was growing there in secret,
you knew that I was there --

you saw me before I was born.
The days allotted to me
had all been recorded in your book
before any of them ever began.
O God, how difficult I find your thoughts;
how many of them there are!
If I counted them,
they would be more than the grains of sand.
When I awake, I am still with you.
Examine me, O God, and know my mind;
test me and discover my thoughts.
Find out if there is any evil in me
and guide me in the everlasting way.
Psalm 139:1-18; 23 & 24

Be merciful to me, O God,
because of your constant love,
because of your great mercy.
I have been evil from the time I was born;
from the day of my birth I have been sinful.
Sincerity and truth are what you require;
fill my mind with your wisdom.
Create a pure heart in me, O God,
and put a new and loyal spirit in me.
Give me again the joy
that comes from your salvation
and make me willing to obey you.
Then I will teach sinners your commands,
and they will turn back to you.
My sacrifice is a humble spirit, O God;
you will not reject a humble and repentant heart.
Psalm 51:1, 5 & 5, 10, 12 & 13, 17

You forgive me, Lord,
so that I should reverently obey you.
I wait eagerly for your help,
and in your word I trust.
I wait for you, Lord,
more eagerly than watchmen wait for the dawn --
yes, than watchmen wait for the dawn.
Psalm 130:4-6

*"Do not subject us to the final test
but deliver us from the evil one."*

PROTECTION and DELIVERANCE

Lord, hear my prayer!
In your righteousness listen to my plea;
answer me in your faithfulness!
Don't put me, your servant, on trial;
no one is innocent in your sight.
I lift up my hands to you in prayer;
like dry ground my soul is thirsty for you.
Answer me now, Lord!
Don't hide yourself from me.
Remind me each morning of your constant love
for I put my trust in you.
My prayers go up to you;
show me the way I should go.
I go to you for protection, Lord;
rescue me from my enemies.
You are my God; teach me to do your will.
Be good to me and guide me on a safe path.
Rescue me, Lord, as you have promised;
in your goodness, save me from my troubles!
Because of your love for me,
kill my spiritual enemies
and destroy all my oppressors
for I am your servant.
Psalm 143:1 & 2, 6 & 7, 8-12

My help comes from you, Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
You will not let me fall;
you, my protector, are always awake.
You will guard me;
you are by my side to protect me.
The sun will not hurt me during the day,
nor the moon during the night.
You, O Lord, will protect me from all danger;
you will keep me safe.
You will keep me as I come and go,
now and forever.
Psalm 121:2 & 3, 5-8

Lord, how happy is the person you instruct,
the one to whom you teach your law!
You give me rest from days of trouble.
You will not abandon me;
you will not desert me
because I belong to you.
I said, "I am falling,"
but your constant love, O Lord,

held me up.
Whenever I am anxious and worried,
you comfort me and make me glad.
You, O Lord, defend me;
you, my God, protect me.
Psalm 94:12-15, 18 & 19, 22

CONCLUDING PRAYER

**Antiphonally – one leads, others
repeat each phrase**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is darkness, bring your light.
Where there is sadness, bring your joy.
Divine Master, grant that I may not seek so much
To be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that I receive,
It is in pardoning that I am pardoned,
It is in dying to self that I am born to eternal life.
--St. Francis of Assisi