

CONFESSIONS OF A MOTHER

Dear Son,

How differently I see things, now that I know you are one of them. Now I understand that they are part of my family. And I am so sorry for some of the things that I, as well as fellow church members, have said and done in our ignorance and prejudice. You have good reason to feel bitter and angry. But I know that bitterness only hurts you and brings more pain. Forgiveness can heal your wounds. So I ask your forgiveness.

Please forgive me for not realizing how other children teased and derided you because they perceived you as "different," for failing to see the hurt and rejection you experienced daily.

Please forgive me for allowing my prejudice to blind me to the confusion and spiritual battles you faced all alone and to the hours you spent on your knees begging God to change you.

Please forgive me for expressing my ignorance and prejudice in describing homosexuals as sick, filthy, or disgusting in your presence, thus hurting you even worse than your friends did.

Please forgive me for laughing at jokes that denigrate and depersonalize you and others who struggle with a homosexual orientation.

Though I now understand things more clearly, there are many in our church who still see you through ignorant and prejudiced eyes.

Can you forgive them for thinking that you are a worse sinner than the rest of us?

Can you forgive them for excluding you from worshipping God with them and for denying your deep spiritual needs?

Can you forgive them for refusing to allow you to use your talents to praise God and bring beauty to their worship services?

Can you forgive them for making cruel and unloving remarks about homosexuals in church, thus misrepresenting God's character to you?

Can you forgive them for offering simplistic "solutions" to a dilemma that is recognized by those who have studied it most as being very complex?

Can you forgive them for believing you have chosen to be homosexual and insisting that you can change if you just pray and try hard enough?

Can you forgive them for minimizing the sacrifices they believe you should make, without considering how difficult they would find it to do the same?

Can you forgive all of us for claiming to be Jesus' followers, but falling so far short of exemplifying His love?

Your Mother