

Prayer of Confession for Sexual Immorality by Ps. Ron Brookman

God of all Grace, Father of Mercy, we come to You through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Saviour, who takes away the sin of the world. Hear our confession, forgive our sin, and have mercy on Your Church, and on our nation, Australia. As Your Church, Your chosen, Your light and witnesses to the people of our nation, whom You call out of darkness and into Your family, we confess that we have failed to pursue Your will for us, sexual purity and sanctification. Not only have we not abstained from sexual immorality, but we have approved many practices which flaunt Your purposes and decrees of covenant, monogamy, heterosexuality and fidelity.

We have yielded to the power of sin by committing adultery in our hearts through lustful thoughts, fantasies and day dreams. We have let darkness pollute our souls by letting our eyes absorb impurity through what we have read, watched, or the pornography we have leered at. We have added to the stains and dark blots of Your beautiful bride through our adulteries, our homosexuality, our acts of paedophilia. Some of us have so idolized our need for sex that we've compromised our standards and values to obtain it at any cost. Because its been easier than committing to working out healthy heterosexual love, some of us have indulged our sexual obsession by acts with people we have not loved, people of our own gender, and some have even sought selfish sexual pleasure through encounter with different kinds of flesh. We have abandoned the brides and husbands of our youth by forsaking them for another, or we have not loved them well enough, leaving them vulnerable to seek love in another. We have enthroned idols in our hearts and therefore in the temples of our bodies, grieving You and the Holy Spirit, who dwells in us. Some of these idols have been sexual fantasies, people whom we have made sexual objects, others have been perverted forms of sexuality and sexual practice. Some of them have even been good things, like our ministries or careers, to which our overcommitment have left our spouses, pining for our love and vulnerable to others, who would seduce them. In like manner we have failed to love our children well, causing them to seek the love they missed, in wrong places and wrong people, leaving their developing sexuality vulnerable to addictions, same sex attractions and other experimentations. Church leaders, and Christian parents have failed to teach, and model Godly standards of sexuality to their flocks and children, making them vulnerable to the world's sexual standards and practices.

We confess the ways in which we have judged people whose sexuality has deviated from Your purposes, driving them from us, rather than taking the time to love them, to come to understand them and the forces of evil to which they've been vulnerable, which have shaped them. Confronting them with the Law which judges, we have failed to earn their trust to offer Your gospel of grace which transforms.

Forgive us, Your church for our failure to walk in the holiness You have bestowed upon us, and have mercy on our nation for our abuse of the good gift of sexuality

which You have given for the pleasure of marriage, the conception of children and, therefore for the heart of family and the security of society. We ask this through Jesus, our Lord, Amen.

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