

## A Corporate Conversation, A Corporate Confession

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith--that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. – Ephesians 3:14-21

### I. **A Corporate Conversation**

### II. **A Corporate Confession**

**Aron is not saying I am guilty of the sin of racism.**

**Aron is not saying MLC is full of bigots.**

**Aron is not saying we are personally culpable for all the ways the church present and past has not fulfilled calling to tear down walls of division.**

**Aron is saying that corporate confession recognizes that, though we may not be guilty or responsible of a particular sin, we know our own brokenness.**

**Aron is saying we all need the Holy Spirit to take our blinders off.**

**Aron is saying that corporate confession reminds us we are a part of a community; it isn't Jesus and me; it's us!**

**Aron is saying God gives grace to the humble.**

**Aron is saying that outpourings of revival are preceded by brokenness for the way things are, because whatever breaks God's heart should break ours.**

**Nehemiah, Jeremiah and Ezra's Example**

**Jesus' Example**

### Why should we corporately confess?

1. **The things that break God's heart break ours.**
2. **We aren't content with theology; we want reality.**
3. **God gives grace to the humble. The doctrine of sin reminds us we are already, but not yet.**
4. **Love.**
5. **Revival.**

Heavenly Father, we confess that the sin of racial hatred and prejudice distorts your divine plan for every person you have created. We confess we live in a land where hatred, prejudice, hostility and divide still find a home. You created us in divine likeness, diverse and beautiful. In every person, every race is your image.

*But too often we fail to recognize your image in all: Forgive us, Father.*

Heavenly Father, you created us in divine freedom, to be free. Your desire is that every person you have created has the same justice afforded to them as anyone else.

*But too often we fail to choose to advocate for your justice for all: Forgive us, Father.*

You created us for divine abundance, to tend and to share.

*But too often we fail to create that community which includes all, and gives equal access to your abundant life: Forgive us, Father.*

Father, if corporately .5% of us are harboring racist, bigoted, judgmental, self-righteous, superior thoughts, it would be .5% too much.

*But too often we content ourselves that we are better than most, and we fail to root out even the hint of divisive thinking. Forgive us, Father.*

Father, what do you require of us? Religion that is pure and undefiled is to look after orphans and widows in their distress. You require of us to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you, our God.

*But too often our knowledge has not led to doing. Forgive us, Father, where we have been hearers only.*