

Grasping For Much-Needed Grace:
20 Days of Nonpartisan Prayer in a Polarized Political Season
Vermont Conference (UCC) prayer initiative
Fall 2020

Day 7 (Wed., October 21) “An Inward look” by Pastor Doug Cameron

Scripture focus: *There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that hurry to run to evil, a lying witness who testifies falsely, and one who sows discord in a family. (Proverbs 6:16-19 NRSV)*

Reflection: In the current political season, it seems as if we increasingly see displays of these “things that the Lord hates”. Reading this scripture should cause us to pause and take a look inward. Are we displaying (or feeling) any of these hateful signs toward our brothers and sisters on the other side of the aisle?

Do we have “haughty eyes”, looking down on others as if we are better? Do our tongues lie, or do we have honest conversations with those with whom we disagree? While we don’t literally “shed innocent blood”, we should never have an agenda that could put others in harm’s way. Do we have hearts of love, or does our passion for “our side” lead us to think about putting others at risk? Do we hurry to cause mischief just to make a point? Do we act with honesty or do we knowingly falsely testify (fake news)? Do we remember that those on the “other” side are also part of our family?

We are living in a world that is moving at warp speed in a time of incredible stress and hardship. It can be difficult to find time to look inward to see if we are in fact part of the reason that political dialogue is so harsh and hateful. What are we doing to lessen the stress and help bring peace to God's world, especially in this contentious time?

Prayer: O God, help us to be people who take an honest look inward and say, "I am your servant who always - no matter the circumstances - will work to bring all your people together to truly be a family."

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