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DIANE URY'S

UNITE

MY HEART

TO YOU





## CREATED

### WE ARE LOVED

Do you ever notice a sense of longing deep within your being?

We can tell something exists which we desire; we sense we are incomplete without it. My first instinct when I think of myself as needing something, as being incomplete, as having desires and longings, is to think that there must be something not right with me. To need seems like weakness, and weakness is not good. And if something is not right or good, then ultimately it must be a result of my messing up. But actually, God created us with need. We are created with desire, a mysterious hunger for a united inner life and heart, for belonging to God. He designed us this way so we would know how wanted we are by Him. To be a perfect human person is to not be self-sustaining. Our longings for beauty and love exist because we are created in God's image, for union with God. We are made for Another, and for others. In love, God designed us to be satisfied when we choose Him.

*GENESIS 1:27, 31*

*So God created humans in His own image;  
God patterned them after Himself;  
male and female He created them.... And so it was.  
Then God looked over all He had made,  
and he saw that it was very good.*



## CONDITION

### — WE ARE HUNGRY —

Into the fabric of our being, our perfect state of goodness at the beginning of creation, was designed dependence and incompleteness. God is our true source of life and satisfaction. But with our freedom we choose to be in charge of our own lives instead of acknowledging that we belong to God. We try to satisfy ourselves our own way. We hunger for wholeness and love. We sense need and emptiness but we often seek to fill it with popularity, security, sex, control, material things, power, entertainment, money and pleasure, etc. This leads to our destruction and brokenness, because it separates us from the only One Who can give us true life. Independent of God we live in a fog. Focusing on ourselves, we are starved for meaning. Darkness and chaos lie over every part of our lives.

*ISAIAH 44:20-21*

*The poor, deluded fool feeds on ashes. He is trusting something that can give him no help at all. Yet he cannot bring himself to ask, "Is this thing, this idol that I'm holding in my hand, a lie?" Pay attention, O people, for you are mine. I, the LORD, made you, and I will not forget to help you. I have swept away your sins like the morning mists. I have scattered your offenses like the clouds. Oh, return to Me, for I have paid the price to set you free.*

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## CHARACTER OF GOD

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### MOVED WITH MERCY

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God is perfectly compassionate and righteous. Our willful separation from Him has resulted in ruining our lives. This breaks His heart. God is Love. His nature is to always be more concerned with our welfare than His own, so He reaches into this realm of our existence with light and truth. Our confusion, pain and fear are not too difficult for Him to deliver us from. He can restore all of creation to its rightful state. He makes all things new. God wants every person to know Him and to live in intimate friendship with Him so that we can live into the dream He has for our lives. Throughout history God has called out to everyone that we should come to Him so that He can rescue us. He takes away our fear because He will give us hope for our lives, and a future with Him forever.


EXODUS 34:6-7

*"I am the LORD, I am the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving kindness and truth; Who keeps loving kindness for thousands, Who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin."*

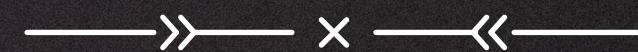
ISAIAH 55:1-5

*Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without spending money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live.*



A woman with blonde hair, wearing a red textured sweater and a necklace with a circular pendant, is looking down. She is holding the hand of a child whose dark-colored sleeve is visible on the right side of the frame. The background is a window with a grid pattern, showing a blurred outdoor scene.

WHEN WE BELONG  
COMPLETELY TO  
JESUS WE BECOME  
A MEMBER OF HIS  
FAMILY





# CURE

## — GOD HAS COME —

Our destruction through our own choices moves God to action. The human condition is so thoroughly tragic that in order to rescue us God Himself had to become a human person – His name is Jesus Christ. As God and human, He lived human life like He created it to be lived, then He died sacrificially, taking our deserved judgment into Himself and taking our place. There is a price to be paid for rebellion. Only the death of Jesus was worthy of the cost. His death has the power to remove our guilt and cleanse us. He rose from the dead and is alive, giving us victory over self-centeredness and death. God can re-create us to be the human persons He always intended that we should be. When we belong completely to Jesus we become a member of His family, His Spirit will dwell in us transforming us to have His character of goodness and love.

*ROMANS 5:8*  
God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

*JOHN 3:16*  
God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

JESUS  
SAVES

» x «

## CHOICE IS OURS

WILL WE SURRENDER

Would you like to be whole and find deep joy within the Life of Jesus? He wants to satisfy your hunger with real Life. Are you in a fog, starved for meaning in your life? Give your self to Him! Entrust your whole life to Him with all your heart. Turn away from the idea that you can own any part of your life for yourself, without Him. Surrender everything you are to the One Who knows you perfectly and loves you with an everlasting love. Ask Him to forgive you for acting like you are the god of your life, and for all the things you've done and been that have been hurtful or wrong. He will forgive, cleanse and transform you. Jesus will rescue you from destruction and restore and guide you. He will give you His Life, with strength and wisdom to walk in His ways. When your life on earth is over, you will continue in this wonderful life with Him forever. Will you call out to Him?

*MATTHEW 16:24-26*

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?"*



Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty! When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat.

Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.

Therefore, let all the godly pray to you while there is still time, that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgment. For you are my hiding place; you protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of victory.

The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control."

Many sorrows come to the wicked, but unfailing love surrounds those who trust the Lord. So rejoice in the Lord and be glad, all you who obey him! Shout for joy, all you whose hearts are pure!

PSALM 32



## CONFESS IN PRAYER

Oh, Father God in heaven, thank you for pursuing me with Your heart of love, for desiring to rescue me so much that you gave Your only Son for me.

Jesus, God the Son, thank you for taking human nature upon You so that You could live, suffer, bleed and die the death that I deserved. Thank you for caring more about me than You do about Yourself.

I surrender my life to You, my God. You created me and I belong to You.

I confess my rebellion against You, living as if I were god of my life. I've brought brokenness into my life by separating myself from You. I confess my sin of \_\_\_\_, and all the ways I've been selfish and hurtful.

Please forgive me, remove my sin and guilt, and take me for Your very own. Take away my self-centeredness and evil ways.

God the Holy Spirit, cleanse my mind and heart so that I can live in a way that is pleasing to You, and be a means of good for others. Help me to live intimately with You, day by day.

In the saving Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.





## CONNECT

### — OTHERS WITH GOD IN COMMUNITY —

There is a multitude of people around the world who have given their lives to Jesus and He has taken hold of them to be His very own. This is called the Church. Remember, God created us to be in relationship with Him and with others. Only by living in close community with people who know Jesus will you be able to keep living in His Life. We must consistently read the Bible, talk with God, and willingly obey Him. Christian friends will help us understand the Bible which is the way God makes Himself known. The Church helps us to be able to obey the Bible's teachings and to walk with Jesus. Life is very hard for all of us, and Christian community offers deep relationship with people who will pray for us and never leave us alone.

#### EPHESIANS 3:14-21

*When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the Church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.*

For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins. Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body.

He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything. For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body.

As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault. But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.

COLOSSIANS 1:13-23

