

PASTOR'S PATCH



*“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us...” .*

1 John chapter 1 verse 8

German Pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote in Life Together :

*“A Christian fellowship lives and exists by the intercession of its
members for one another, or it collapses.
I can no longer condemn or hate a brother for whom I pray,
no matter how much trouble he causes me.
His face, that hitherto may have been strange and intolerable to me,
is transformed in intercession into the countenance of a brother
for whom Christ died, the face of a forgiven sinner.”*

When we recognise we are all sinners and confess our own sins, we are less concerned with the sins of those who sin differently to us (after all, we can't agree whether Same-Sex Marriage or doing the Lottery or our view of politics is sin or not), but we can agree we are all sinners. We can also agree that there is some sin in church with which we cannot help but be complicit (economic and environmental sin), so why do we (a) presume we are right and they are wrong and (b) insist they stop their sin, even if we cannot stop ours?

If Christ died for each of us, sinners deserving of destruction, yet who chose to pray and sacrifice His own life for us, can't we lay down our judgements of others, leave those to the Lord and simply pray for each other?

Which is precisely why we need our Bible Verse for the Year to remind us “*Lord teach us to pray*”. It's also why we need to remember another bible verse

*“... but if we confess our sin, He is faithful and just
and will forgives us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”*

1 John chapter 1 verse 9

*Grace – it's a powerful and life-giving gift which is far more powerful than sin.
Let's exercise grace as God's family this week.*

Darrell