

In Nomine Jesu

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PUBLIC LETTER IV

To the Church; especially those who also have been harmed,

October 17, 2016

Servant Leaders for the Lord of the Church,
Grace and Peace - Concord,

The Professional Church Workers Conferences are coming up soon. Our President, at the recent COLIBM convocation, spoke about the Church's task of reconciliation. It had been the subject at the Circuit Visitors conference shortly before. He mentioned that the hardest words to say are: "I was wrong." He told how at weddings he would have the bride and groom say the words to each other and that he also had the whole congregation say them. I wondered if he would speak to me. He did not and I really was not surprised. Do you think he will he tell you "I am wrong for putting you in the situation that you are continually getting these letters?" Will our BOD apologize to you?

I am sure some of you are unhappy with me. However no one has identified anything I have said or done that is not true or in violation of the scripture. You are hurting. When one part of the body hurts, the whole body hurts. President Denninger assured me, he would treat any of you the same way as he has treated me. Would you be pleased with your brothers in the SED, if they ignored your pain?

I was talking with a lady as to why she left her old church. She had repeatedly called for the Pastor to bring her communion. She had been very ill for long time. He never responded. I always wondered why that large church with highly regarded pastor lost so many members over the years. What can you do that most angers your wife, most endangers your marriage? Not even adultery is worse than refusing to respond, to answer, to consider her pain from your action and word.

"The Cost of Discipleship" Chapter 8 "The Brother" Bonhoeffer

When we come before God with hearts full of contempt and unreconciled with our neighbours, we are, both individually and as a congregation, worshipping an idol. So long as we refuse to love and serve our brother and make him an object of contempt and let him harbour a grudge against me or the congregation, our worship and sacrifice will be unacceptable to God. Not just the fact that I am angry, but the fact that there is somebody who has been hurt, damaged and disgraced by me, who "has cause against me," erects a barrier between me and God.

Let us therefore as a Church examine ourselves, and see whether we have not often enough wronged our fellowmen. Let us see whether we have tried to win popularity by falling in with the world's hatred, its contempt and its contumely. For if we do that we are murderers. Let the fellowship of Christ so examine itself to-day and ask whether, at the hour of prayer and worship, any accusing voices intervene and make its prayer vain Let the fellowship of Christ examine itself and see whether it has given any token of the love of Christ to the victims of the world's contumely and contempt, any token of that love of Christ which seeks to preserve, support and protect life. Otherwise however liturgically correct our services are, and however devout our prayer, however brave our testimony, they profit us nothing, nay rather, they must needs testify against us that we have as a Church ceased to follow our Lord. God will not be separated from our brother: he wants no honour for himself so long as our brother is dishonoured.

The Sign of Concord

Soli Deo Gloria

He died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves,
but for him who died and was raised for them. 2 Cor. 5:15

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There is therefore only one way of following Jesus and of worshipping God, and that is to be reconciled with our brethren. If we come to hear the Word of God and receive the sacrament without first being reconciled with our neighbours, we shall come to our own damnation. In the sight of God we are murderers. Therefore "go thy way, first be reconciled with thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."

Why did the Church die in Germany? Why in the US? Why is the LCMS dying?
It sounds like Bonhoeffer knows us!

In the name of one called by God to proclaim His Love for all



Stephen H. Funck Ezekiel. 3:16ff

PS: Public Letters I, II, III with supporting documentation including video, are posted at http://thesignofconcord.com/Pastoral_Ministry.php . I did not want to do any of this but I felt I had not other option and after much prayer that seemed supported by the Spirit and the Word. No one has suggested there was a different path that would have led to reconciliation. The website was created for my books King of Kings and Jail Ministry. They are my joy, please take a look at them.



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