

## **Sermon for Reformation Sunday 2013**

“Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, ‘If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’”

Here are some truths. We are the created not the creator yet we don't act that way. We don't trust God above everything else. We have not loved God with our whole heart. We are self-centered. We have sinned against God by thought, word and deed by what we've done or left undone.

We claim to have free will yet according to Luther that will is bound and left on our own all we can chose to do is evil. We state most Sundays during confession that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We are selfish. We don't love our neighbors as ourselves. We hoard the abundance that we have and are afraid to share it with others fearing that there won't be enough to go around. We're jealous and envious wanting what isn't ours. We don't see our neighbor's actions in the best possible light. We gossip. We hold grudges. We create strife and warfare.

We don't care for the earth and the rest of God's good creation as good stewards should. We use her resources for our own selfish purposes. We don't take only what we need leaving the rest for future generations. We consume without regard for the needs of others.

These truths don't paint a very pretty picture do they? They aren't what I want to hear about myself, but they are truths that I need to hear about myself. But if these truths were to end here we'd be saying, “What's the use; there's no hope

for us.” And left on our own there would be no hope, but God has not left us alone and to our own devices for the truth is that God will never leave us or forsake us.

The truth is that God loves us enough that the Father gave the only Son so that we may not perish, but have eternal life. The truth is that God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The truth is that while we still sinners Christ died for us. The truth is that while we were still enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of Christ, and we will be saved by his life. The truth is that we are now justified by God’s grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. The truth is that all we have to do to receive all of this is to believe and that gift of belief is given to us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The truth is that we have been baptized into Christ’s death and since we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too shall walk in newness of life.

The truth is that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. The truth is that the home of God will be among mortals. God will dwell with us and wipe every tear from our eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more for God is making everything new. The truth is that God will write the new covenant upon our hearts and God will remember our

sin no more! The truth is that when God looks down at us; God sees the love of Jesus Christ covering our sinful selves. And as Martin Luther would say, "This is most certainly true!"