

The only way to protect our freedom is to check the hatred in our own minds. Our political conversation must shift away from the mass, infantile finger-pointing that now pervades it. It is not liberals or conservatives who have ruined or are ruining America; it is the tendency on so many people's parts to think that their way is the right way and that people who disagree with them are *bad*. It doesn't ultimately matter so much how we degenerated into such mass disrespect for the rights of others to hold opinions different from our own. What does matter is that we commit, immediately, to individual healing, through the grace of God, from our own tendency to condemn whom God Himself would not condemn. God loves Bill Clinton and Rush Limbaugh both, and He loves them equally. He sees through their politics, and He asks us to do the same. That might be a bitter pill for some people to swallow; it's the only medicine which will heal us, however, for it is a return to a spiritually healthy ground of being.

God does not need us to condemn each other on His behalf, but to love each other on His behalf. From that awareness, we can disagree vehemently yet appropriately. Our freedom is ultimately not guaranteed by the Constitution; the only thing that guarantees freedom, ultimately, is our own commitment to it. That commitment must include our capacity to love each other as human beings, to remember we are brothers and sisters on this planet, and to surrender to God any thoughts we have to the contrary. Let us not be deceived. Each of us is host to anger each day; just as each of us is host to love. Pray for your friends, but by all means pray for your enemies. And don't pray that they'll change; pray that *you* might change, from an accusatory mind to a loving one.

Dear God,

*Please remove from my mind the tendency to judge.*

*Please remove from my mind the tendency to hate.*

*Please remove from my mind the tendency to blame.*

*Please reveal to me, Lord, a way to stand in my power through love instead of fear, and through peace instead of violence.*

*May I hear not the voice for anger, but only the voice for love.*

*And teach me, dear Lord, how not to hate those who hate me.*

*Transform all darkness into light, dear God, And use my mind as an instrument of Your harmlessness.*

*I surrender to You my thoughts of violence.*

*Take these thoughts, Lord, and wash them clean.*

*Amen.*

