

## Unruly Wills and Affections of Sinners

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Jeremiah 31:31-34;		
Psalm 51:1-13		
Hebrews 5:5-10;		
John 12:20-33		
Eucharist A (361)		
NA—Rite I		

The unruly wills and affections of sinners. ... ..

{Pause} Please be seated {Pause}

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Though it obviously should not... /// /// /// The collect for today,  
Sort of draws my attention; /// /// For all the wrong reasons.

It is quite clear that the purpose of the collect is not to entertain,  
But, yet, unruly and willful as I frequently be,

The beginning of the collect, which reminds us that  
Almighty God alone can bring into order,  
The unruly wills and affections of sinners,  
Just seems to tickle me a bit.

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One of the most difficult Christian Concepts to understand

Is the concept of God's Omnipotence and Our Free Will. ///  
God did not make us into robots who would

do his will automatically without thinking.

And our free will can often get us into trouble!

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Our free will, and original sin, can get us into other problems too.

Although we do live under the covenant described in the OT;

And the law is placed within our hearts,

And God is in fact our God, and resides in us,

Through our baptism, and we do know the Lord,

We still do commit sins and iniquities,

(Which God promises that we he will remember no more),

And we still get things wrong,

(Which is the very definition of sin and iniquity!)

And even when we try our hardest,

To do the things that we know that

God desires for us, we get tripped up.

There is (of course) a good reason for this,

God does not want us to believe we have saved ourselves

Of our own power, lest we find a reason to boast.

It is solely by Christ, and with Christ, and with Christ,

The true priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek,

Who saves us from our sins and makes us righteous.

We cannot do this on our own.

We can't dig ourselves out of this pit.



Our Triune God: Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ,

Though He did with loud cries and tears,

Ask that the cup of our deserved wraith be withdrawn

Willingly submitted Himself to death,

Even death upon the tree of cursing death,

So that all: Even the Greeks and even us Gentiles,

Those who went to worship Jesus through His disciple Philip,

(In our Gospel Reading Today!)

Jesus. Is the one who frees us from the penalty of our own

Unruly wills and sinful affections. But NOT of the penalty

Of our unruly wills & sinful affections only,

But the penalty of the unruly will and affections,

Of the sins of the whole world.



In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the H.S.



Nicene Creed: 327