Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2014

19–25 January **Women's Department (Frauenwerk)**

As the Law was given through Moses, so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ.
(John 1,17) (CEB)

Laws can sometimes make me angry. They are intended to organize our social life together, but they often lack considerations of individuals' requirements. Foreign citizens are deported back into their land of origin, because our laws demand it, disregarding the fact that they have managed to become well integrated in Germany, and that their children are about to pass final school exams. Each of us has now and then been confronted with such discrepancies between law and justice.

Furthermore, laws are often interpreted and evaluated in different ways. There is a reason for having so many lawyers in Germany. I as a »normal citizen« are often unable to understand a legal text. I am glad to know that Jesus becomes my legal assistant. He does not cancel the law that was given to Moses by God. In Matthew 5, 17 Jesus says: Don't even begin to think that I have come to do away with the Law and the Prophets. I haven't come to do away with them but to fulfill them. Jesus interprets the law for me so that I can understand it. For him the individual human being is the center of concern. Jesus does not demand strict abidance by the letter of the law. He allows »mercy to take the right«.

This is the liberating message for me. Jesus meets me with mercy and truth. His standard is not: The law is on the side of those, who have money. Jesus knows me in and out – there is nothing I can hide from him.

However, I need not fear judgment. When I make Jesus my legal representative, I can trust his mercy. And that gives me freedom to live a free life.

Sylvia Schütte

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I give thanks

- For women who commit themselves to equality before the law for all persons.
- For women who care for underprivileged people and pass God's love on to them.
- For women who know that they are completely depending on God's mercy, and who in turn treat their neighbors with mercy.

My prayer ist

- For all women not to be governed by human laws but to place God's law and mercy above them.
- For women as lawyers and judges in totalitarian states that they be able to perform their professional work independently and without oppression.
- For all women throughout the world who suffer from unjust laws and cannot fight against them.

The Women's Department of the UMC encourages women to structure their lives on God's abundant grace. We encourage women to rely on their personal traits and to live their own integral spirituality. We also encourage women to engage in leading functions.

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