



**DEALING WITH SIN: CONFESSION,
FORGIVENESS, AND REPENTANCE**

Dealing with Sin: Confession, Forgiveness, and Repentance

Key Terms

- **Born Again:** New birth, being born again, is an act of God whereby eternal life is imparted to the person who believes. We are part of God's family.
- **Fellowship:** Partnership; joint interest; spiritual unity and connection with God and others.
- **Confess:** The acknowledgment of sinfulness in public or private, regarded as necessary to obtain divine forgiveness.
- **Forgive:** To let go, to put away or forsake the offense.
- **Repent:** The act of turning away from sin and turning to God

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

DEALING WITH SIN

After you accept Jesus as your Savior, you are now a child of God, but we still sin. The penalty for sin is paid in full, but we still live in a world that is full of sin, and we still have a sin nature. Because we are, "in the flesh," we will continue to sin. In order to understand how sin affects our lives, we must understand our relationship with God. If we sin, this does not change our status as children of God, but it does hinder our relationship with God. The same way that if you offend your spouse, this does not mean that you are no longer married, but it does mean that your relationship is hurt and fellowship is hindered. The good news is that God has instructed us on how to live and how to deal with sin. We do not ignore sin; we deal with sin!

Questions being answered tonight:

- **What does it mean to be born again?**
- **How does sin affect us and our walk relationship with God?**
- **Why do we still sin after we are saved?**
- **How do we make things right when we sin?**

What Does it Mean to be Born Again?

- This is the foundation to this entire study! To understand why we must deal with sin, we must first understand our relationship with God.
- How does someone become your child? They are born into your family. God uses this same example to explain our relationship to Him.

John 1:12-13 *“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”*

John 3:3-7 *“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.”*

Jesus made a very clear comparison here between physical birth and spiritual birth.

- Jesus taught that you can and were only born ONCE physically.
- You CANNOT be born more than once. The same thing is true with salvation. Once you are born into the family of God, you can't be “unborn”.
- Do you make mistakes? YES! Does this change your position in the family? NO!
- Do our kids ever let us down? Do they break the rules? Do they rebel? Do they act unthankful? Do they sometimes disobey on purpose? Answer: YES!
- These things do not change their position of being “in the family”. They are still our sons and daughters. What is affected is the relationship.
- We do not bless our children when they disobey and the fellowship is not like it should be with each other.

God seeks to correct us the same way we correct our kids when they do wrong.

- **He seeks to correct the wrong so the relationship will be right**

Hebrews 12:6-7 *“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?”*

- Paul is a good example of this Biblical principle:

Romans 7:19-20 *“For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. 20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.”*

- Paul does not keep getting saved over-and-over again.

Salvation is about a relationship with God.

- We speak of our relationship as family with God, not as religion.
- This is the correct view we must have to understand this subject!

1 John 3:1-5 *“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”*

- SONS OF GOD = We are the children of God.
- This terminology is used through the New Testament to teach us about our relationship with God.

We are the children of God

Galatians 3:26 *“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”*

1. He is our Father:

Corinthians 6:18 *“And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”*

2. We are a Family:

Romans 12:10 *“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;”*

3. You are born into the Family of God
 - Doing wrong or sinning does not make you “unborn” – you do not lose your position in the family.
 - You are saved by the blood of Jesus, not your good works or perfection.

How Does Sin Affect Our Relationship with God?

Sin hurts our relationship with God.

- God is holy and righteous
- God is light

1 John 1:5 *“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”*

- Sin is the opposite of God. It is anything that goes against that which is right, good, and holy.

1 John 1:6 *If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*

Sin hurts our fellowship with God

- What happened when Adam and Eve Sinned in the Garden?

Genesis 3:24 *“So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”*

- Sin separated them from God and hurt their relationship with Him.
- When we sin, it hinders our relationship with God.
- When we sin, it hinders the work of God in our lives.

Ephesians 4:30 *“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”*

Sin hurts us personally

- **Sin=Pain**
- In Genesis, sin brought thorns.

Sin controls us

Romans 6:14 *“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”*

- **Dominion** = to rule:--have dominion over, lord, be lord of, exercise lordship over.
- **LUST** wants to rule your life.
- **BITTERNESS** wants to rule your life.
- **ANGER** wants control.

Sin destroys

James 1:15 *“Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”*

- It is like a disease. It does not just go away - It runs its course
- We must recognize the effect of sin and how it hurts our relationship with God
- It is not about a list of rules, it is about our walk with God.

Romans 6:1-2 *“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein.”*

Why Do We Still Sin After We Are Saved?

You are made of flesh

Romans 7:18 *“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.”*

- Flesh = our physical desire.
 - Our hunger
 - Our lust
 - Our anger
 - Our laziness
 - Our apathy
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- So often, we blame the devil for things we do wrong, when it is simply our sinful nature.
 - We gravitate to doing wrong, we are naturally lazy ,and we naturally lie.

Your flesh is naturally wicked

Romans 7:18 *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

- This is why we don't have to teach our kids to lie, cheat, or steal.
- This is why we can lose our temper and hurt those that we love.
- This is why we can cheat on our spouse.

Your flesh fights against your spirit

Galatians 5:17 *“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”*

- This is why we “walk in the Spirit”

Galatians 5:16 *“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”*

How Do We Make Things Right?

Yield to the conviction of Holy Spirit

John 16:7-8 *“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:”*

- When we sin, the Spirit of God will convict you! You will know it! It will bother you.
- God will bring the sin to light.
- It is like getting a splinter in your hand. You can ignore it, but eventually it will cause problems.
- God wants a relationship with you.
- God desires things to be right in your life.
- We must be sensitive to His conviction.

1 John 1:8 *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”*

We often sin in two ways

1. Sins of commission

- Deliberate sins.
- To take something that was not yours.
- To say something that you should not have said.

2. Sins of omission

- The sin of not doing something that we should do.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 *“Rejoice evermore. 17 Pray without ceasing. 18 In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 19 Quench not the Spirit.”*

Psalms 139:23 *“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

Confess your sins to God

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Psalms 32:5 "I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin."

WHY CONFESS?

- Confessing our sin means to acknowledge our sin
- "I have done wrong".
- "This is not right".
- "I have made a mistake".
- It is more than saying, "forgive me of my sins".
- What has to be conquered to do this? Your PRIDE and you FLESH!

Accept God's forgiveness

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Break it down

- "He is faithful" – He is true to what He said and promised.
- "He is just" – This is another way of saying, "merciful".
- He is willing and able to forgive your sins.
- "Forgive" – to let go; to put away or forsake the offense .
- Our sin is placed under the blood of Jesus.
- "Cleansed" "corrected" "Made right".
- If we confess our sins, God forgives our sins.

There is no sin too big that God will not or cannot forgive

- Sin is no match for the blood of Jesus.
- The woman caught in the act of adultery – Jesus forgave her.
- The thief on the cross – Jesus forgave him.
- Saul, that persecuted the church – Jesus forgave him.

Psalms 103:12 "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."

Make some changes....Repent

Acts 2:37 “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins....”

- The term repentance (from the Greek word metanoia) means “turning from sin.”
- It is a change of direction resulting from a change of heart.

QUESTION: Can you confess without repenting? Yes!

- We should confess our sins, but we should change our ways to prevent it from happening again.
- Repenting means you deal with the issue that you confessed.
- Change some things, remove some things, and correct some things.

The Goal: Restore the fellowship with God that is hurt and hindered by sin

- We must always remember that we were created to have fellowship with God; this is why we deal and confront sin that comes into our lives.

Group Discussion Questions

As a group, read the following questions and discuss. Be sure to give everyone an opportunity to answer.

- Read I John 1:9 aloud in your group and answer the following:
 1. What is the most difficult part of confession for you?
 2. Have you been dealing with a particular sin recently? How can the group pray for and encourage you about it? Be as specific as you are comfortable with.
- What verse mentioned tonight was the most helpful for you? Was there anything that stood out to you to be encouraging, eye-opening, or helpful?
- How can the group pray for you?