

1 John 1:9-10

Before we get started let's refresh our minds to what we have studied so far and read 1 John 1:1-8.

John was writing to disprove false teachers and strengthen the believers against the denial that Jesus came in the flesh and was the Son of God, or the "Life". The message which he brought to them was, that God is light, and that if we profess to have fellowship with him we must walk in the light, in God is no darkness, no impurity, no sin, if we are in darkness (sin), we cannot have any fellowship with Him. If we walk in the light as he is in the light, we can have fellowship one with another and the blood of Christ will cleanse us from all sin. If we say we are not sinners and have never sinned in the past or present, we only deceive ourselves.

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

If we confess our sins

What is the definition of confess?

Confess –To own, acknowledge to be true, to admit or declare oneself guilty of what one is accused of.

One commentator says, "continual confession of sin is an indication of genuine salvation. While the false teachers would not admit their sin, the genuine Christian was to admit and confess their sin and turned from it." John recognizes and acknowledges that one is a sinner in need of cleansing and forgiveness.

What we should be ashamed of is that we are guilty. When we have wronged God/others, peace of mind can only be found in confession.

Ps 32:5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity.

Ps 51:7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Ps 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew steadfast spirit within me.

Ps 119:128 Therefore all your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right: I hate every false way.

Ps 51:2-5 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight-that You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.

What do you see from David's confession in Ps 51:2-5? (This was after he had been with Bathsheba and Nathan confronted him)

Why do we need to confess our sins to God and others?

Pr 28:13 He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

With confession we must have repentance.

What is the definition of repentance?

True repentance is a change of mind, character, conduct and behavior. It is a recognition acknowledgement of one's own guilt and sinfulness, and a hatred of sin. It's a turning away from our sins and a turning towards God. It a persistent active endeavor to live a holy life in walking with God in obedience to His Word. It's an everyday, minute by minute struggle to keep our minds focused and fixed on our Lord and His Truth. Although we have a new nature, we continue to sin. As we confess our sins, we can have confidence in knowing our relationship is secure with Christ. He is the Only One Who can help us overcome our sin. The reward of "walking in the light" is complete and full joy.

Ps 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Psalm 19:8 The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

What more easy terms of salvation could we desire than an acknowledgment of our sins? No painful sacrifice is demanded; no penance, pilgrimage, or voluntary scourging; all that is required is that there should be an acknowledgment of sin at the foot of the cross, and if this is done with a true heart the offender will be saved. If a man is not willing to do this, why should he be saved? How can he be? *Albert Barnes New Testament Commentary*

Something to ponder – Do we own and confess our sins to God? To others? Do we feel guilt, show sorrow or regret when we have sinned against God? Do we come before God with a repentant heart? Do we surrender the sin and walk away from it?

Thank you Lord Jesus for Your everlasting love that has delivered us from our sin, guilt and eternal death.

He is faithful

Faithful – Trustworthy, One who can be relied upon. Worthy of believing.

What have you found in your life to be faithful other than God?

Ladies, our God is faithful! There is no one on this earth who can ever be 100% faithful to us. Our Lord is the Only One who is 100% faithful! Everything about Him is faithful! God is faithful to His own promises and "true" to His word.

2 Tim 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

Ps 119:138 You have commanded Your testimonies in righteousness and exceeding faithfulness.

Is 25:1 O Lord, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name; For You have worked wonders, plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness.

Deut 7:9 “Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.”

Lam 3:22-23 Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

1 Cor 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Heb 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

1 Thes 5:24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

2 Thes 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.

Rev 21:5 And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He *said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”

Something to ponder – Do we believe our Lord to be faithful when we are going through life’s struggles? What about when a prayer has not been answered after a week? A month? Years? Do we believe Him faithful ALL the time? Forever faithful?

We have to preach it to ourselves and believe that God is faithful!

And Just

Just – Unbiased in character or act, innocent, holy, righteous. And said of God, it designates the perfect agreement between His nature and His acts, in which He is the standard for all men.

Here is another attribute of God that He is unlike anyone! He is 100% Just!

Ps 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne: steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

Not merely the mercy, but the justice or righteousness of God is set forth in the redemption of the penitent believer in Christ. God’s promises of mercy, to which He is faithful, are in accordance with His justice. *Jamieson, Fausset, Brown*

Rev 15:3 They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: “Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!”

Justice for our sins required a penalty and that penalty was Jesus dying on the cross. Justice was satisfied once and for all as God sent His own Son into the world to be our Substitute. Christ “died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God” (1 Pet 3:18) Salvation is a just consequence because God has pronounced Jesus’ death and resurrection sufficient to satisfy His wrath.

Therefore the beginning of salvation is to acknowledge our wickedness and to require pardon from him, who freely forgives all sins, because he has promised to do so and he is faithful and just. So then our salvation depends on the free promise of God, who because he is faithful and just, will perform that which he hath promised. Where then are our merits? for this is our true happiness. *Geneva Bible Notes*

To forgive us our sin

In pardoning sin, God absolves the sinner from the condemnation of the law, and that on account of the work of Christ, He removes the guilt of sin, or the sinner's actual liability to eternal wrath on account of it. All sins are forgiven freely. *Easton's Bible Dictionary*

When Jesus was on the cross He said, “It is finished”. The Greek word is “tetelestai,” it is an accounting term that means “paid in full.” Jesus was declaring the debt owed to His Father was wiped away completely and forever. Jesus did not owe any debt, Jesus eliminated the debt owed by mankind, the debt of sin. IT IS FINISHED!

Mat 9:2 And they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, “Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven.”

Mat 26:28 For this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of His grace.

1 Joh 2:12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name’s sake.

The biblical truth about sin is that our only hope is found in the gospel. Christianity is based on the fact that man is a fallen being, and in need of a Rescuer, Redeemer, Deliverer, Protector, a Savior!

All who walk near to God, in holiness and righteousness, are sensible that their best days and duties are mixed with sin. God has given testimony to the sinfulness of the world, by providing a sufficient, effectual Sacrifice for sin, needed in all ages; and the sinfulness of believers themselves is shown, by requiring them continually to confess their sins, and to

apply by faith to the blood of that Sacrifice. Let us plead guilty before God, be humble, and willing to know the worst of our case. Let us honestly confess all our sins in their full extent, relying wholly on his mercy and truth through the righteousness of Christ, for a free and full forgiveness, and our deliverance from the power and practice of sin. *Matthew Henry Commentary*

And to cleanse us

Why do we need cleansing?

Cleanse – Be clean from the defilement of sin and from its faults, consecrate to free from guilt and sins and by cleansing. Not only to forgive the sin, but to purify the heart from wickedness. To be pardoned from sin.

Isa 1:16 “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil.

God calls His people to be holy.

2 Tim 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

1 Pet 1:16 For it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

It is of the nature of that blood which the Redeemer shed that it ultimately cleanses the soul entirely from sin. The prospect before the true Christian that he will become perfectly holy is absolute; and whatever else may befall him, he is sure that he will yet be holy as God is holy.

Albert Barnes NT Commentary

Heb 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Isa 1:18 “Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord, though your sins are like scarlet they shall be white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Ps 19:12 Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults.

1 Cor 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.

Titus 2:14 Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

Thank you Lord that through Your cleansing blood, you have pardon the guilty who desire forgiveness and have made us holy!

Psalm 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—
These, O God, You will not despise.

What words come to mind knowing you have been forgiven, cleansed and made holy?

From all unrighteousness

Unrighteousness – A condition of not being right according to the standard of His Holiness and Righteousness that is offensive to Him who “is just” or righteous; called “sin,” Wrongfulness of character, wickedness. Unrighteousness may consist of a single unjust act.

Are any of us exempt from being unrighteous?

The beauty of the salvation message is we are cleansed from all unrighteousness by the blood of Christ. He has forgiven all that is past, treating us as if we were righteous, and ultimately by removing all the stains of guilt from our soul. It’s not until we realize Who our Lord is through His Word and His attributes that we can begin to grasp a small part of Who our God is and what He has done for us. It’s only through Christ alone!

1 John 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

If we say we have not sinned

If we say we have never sinned (trespass/offend), and say we are perfect, we are deceived! We cannot hide sin from God, all is known to Him! No one can lay claim to perfection, only our Lord and Savior!

One evening, I was sharing the gospel with a woman who said she had never sinned in her life. She was a good person. She truly believed this and was quite happy with herself. I asked her if she had ever been upset with anyone? She stated again, that she had never sinned. I continued on with the gospel message when she stopped me mid-sentence and said, “Hold on, do you remember when you asked me if I ever had been upset with anyone? Well, I have, just the other day a driver cut me off and got me mad.” She had been deceived in thinking she had not ever sinned and was good.

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

We make Him a liar

One commentator says, “But worst of all, we make Him a liar, by denying His word that all men are sinners. To deny that fact is to blaspheme God with slander that defames His name.”

We are saying of God that He knowingly offers falsehood.

Does God lie?

NO!!! God is Truth! It is impossible for Him to lie!

Num 23:19 God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

Titus 1:2 In the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie...

The liars are those who are deceived and do not have or know the Truth!

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

1 Joh 2:4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1 Joh 5:10 He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

And His word is not in us

His word, which is “The Truth” accuses us, by denying it we drive it from our hearts.

Joh 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own did not received him.

Joh 3:18-21 He that believes on him is not condemned: but he that does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Joh 5:38 But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.

Joh 5:43 I am come in my Father's name, and you did not receive me: if another shall come in his own name, him you will receive.

Lord, we need Your help! Help us not to be deceived, or foolish in our thinking. Help us to seek You! To confess and repent of our sins. Thank You Lord that by a simple act of confession through humility and brokenness, You forgive our sins! You and Your Word are Truth! Help us to abide in Your will and Your light. It's only because of You that we can walk in this truth! You are Faithful, Just and True! We are so undeserving and yet You still bestow Your righteousness upon us. Thank You Lord, You deserve all the glory, honor and praise! Amen!

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.
Genesis 1:1-5