

Committed to Changed Behavior

Description

1 John 1:3-10.

I have always found confession difficult because I'm fearful of the damage done by my mistakes. Thankfully, when I've done wrong, people in my life have been gracious. Yet, what often comes with guilt is the fear in the back of our mind that says, "This time will be different; they might not forgive."

Unfortunately, that is the story for many; some relationships have not stood the test of our mistakes. This may make us fearful about how God will treat us.

First John reminds us that everyone has sinned, but because God is love revealed in Christ, we have a way to redemption. Perfect love casts out fear (4:18)! This includes the fear that God will somehow cease to be faithful if we make enough mistakes. So, we humbly approach God to confess sins because we know that Christ's redemption is always available.

We do not abuse this grace—we must not keep walking in darkness! Yet, when we confess and repent, Christ is faithful to forgive and purify. This second word is essential to forgiveness: Being reconciled means a commitment to changed behavior. We do not just admit wrong and accept grace but live differently through Christ's purifying power. Christ is faithful not only to forgive, but to transform us!

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