If We Confess

J.P. Flores · 1 John 1:5–10

INTRODUCTION

- Christianity and your faith should be a lot like playing basketball. It's about giving up yourself and working together with other individuals to accomplish a goal.
- In order to fulfill the law of Christ, we have to do what? Bear one another's burdens. How do I bear your burden if I don't know what your burden is?
- The apostles and those around them understood church as a family, not a location, not an event, not an organization.

1 Why Confession Is Important

1 John 1:5–10

- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- Satan wants us to keep things hidden in shame, like sin. He wants you to bottle your sin up inside and to not let it see the light of day.
- If you try to ignore your sin, or you try to act like it's not a big deal, or you try to keep it in the darkness, you make God a liar.
- John, as an older, faithful disciple, does not exclude himself from the need to confess his sins.
- Confession wasn't intended to be a one-time big event.
- Confession that doesn't change behavior isn't a good confession.

2 What Confession Is

- What is confession? It's just to be in agreement with God. To say the same things that God is saying.
- Confession is not telling someone every single time you sin and having a log book that you hand over to some kind of authority figure.
- It means building a relationship with your brothers and sisters, a fellow disciple of Jesus who can offer up a safe place to talk about your sins and your struggles and your lives together.
- Confession is the ability to have day in and day out conversations. Instead of just ignoring sin or having silent struggles.
- If we regulate confession to a singular, one time event, what are we really saying? We're saying, God, I'm okay with the shortcut.

3 The Blessings That Come From Confession

Psalm 51:7–12

- It is one of the ways to defeat sin and bring us closer to holiness.

- When you confess your sins to your family, you expose those sins and those temptations to prayer, to wisdom, and to accountability of the brethren.
- It also brings us closer to God through humility. We stop trying to rely on our goodness and we start relying on God's.
- Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- Confession brings us closer to one another. It allows us to be real with one another and build real relationships.
- Weaknesses in others doesn't diminish our love for them.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Are you going to see someone from this congregation outside of the building this week? Who are you going to spend time with? When are you going to see the brethren again?**

MY NOTES