

DEALING WITH SIN HEAD ON: THE BELIEVER, THE CONSTANT CONFESSOR

1 John 1:5-10

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6 **If we say** we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 **If we say** we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

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

10 **If we say** we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

As believers, we are called to deal with head on, not lying about it, ignoring it, or blaming others. When we deny our sins, we lie to ourselves and to others.

Looking back at **1 John 1:6-10**

Lying to ourselves and others

6 **If we say** we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, *we lie* and do not practice the truth.

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Lying to ourselves

8 **If we say** we have no sin [a sin nature], *we deceive ourselves*, and the truth is not in us.

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

Lying to ourselves and God

10 **If we say** we have not sinned [never sinned], *we make him a liar*, [meaning I am telling the truth and God is lying. To say that we have not sinned is a direct contradiction of the written word] and his word is not in us.

One example of how not to deal with sin is blaming others

Genesis 3:9-13

9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

12 The man said, "**The woman** whom **you gave** to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."

13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "**The serpent** deceived me, and I ate."

Blaming your past, your lack of proper parents/parenting, your social/economic status, ethnicity, your up bringing, the systems, the white man or any other man, the country in which you live, etc. is a denial of your responsibility and that you chose sin. Remember that we sin when we allow ourselves to be controlled by our flesh, i.e. lured and enticed by *our own sinful desire* (James 1:12-15).

While we are busy blaming others for our sin, guess what? our sin remains unconfessed. Unconfessed sin can lead to destructive consequences.

Psalms 32:3-4

3 For *when I kept silent*, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Selah

Destructive effects of sin

Although salvation remains for a true saint, one consequence of unconfessed sin is a break in fellowship with God and joy in that fellowship.

Isa 59:1-2

1 Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;

2 but your iniquities have *made a separation* between you and your God,

and your sins have *hidden his face from you* so that he does not hear.

1 John 1:5

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

How are we to deal with sin?

1 John 1:9

9 If we confess...

[present tense - to admit it, acknowledge it, say the same thing about it and have the same attitude towards it that God has – The sin is a breaking and a violation of God's law]

our sins...

[a transgression, a breaking, a violation of God's law, commands and precepts; to behave with complete disregard for the laws or regulations of a God - 'to live lawlessly, lawlessness, lawless living.'],

he is faithful and just to forgive...

[parental not judicial **Heb 12 5-9**]

us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

HOW DO WE CONFESS OUR SINS BIBLICALLY (i.e. What is true confession of sin according to God's Word)?

An example of a biblical, scriptural confession of sin**Psalms 51**

1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

True penitence is not a dead knowledge of sin committed, but a living sensitive consciousness of it (**Isa 59:12**), to which it [the sin committed] is ever present as a matter and ground of unrest and pain.

Isaiah 59:12-15

12 For our transgressions are multiplied before you,
and our sins testify against us;
for our transgressions are with us,
and *we know* our iniquities:

13 transgressing, and denying the Lord,
and turning back from following our God,
speaking oppression and revolt,
conceiving and uttering from the heart lying words.

14 Justice is turned back,
and righteousness stands afar off;
for truth has stumbled in the public squares,
and uprightness cannot enter.

15 Truth is lacking,
and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.

Judgment and Redemption

The Lord saw it, and it displeased him

that there was no justice.

To truly confess your sin, acknowledge your sin and name it/them one by one
Don't settle for the prayer, lord forgive me of all my sin, both known and unknown. That is not truly acknowledging and confessing your sin.

Psalm 51:4

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.

Although others may be affected by our sin and we may feel guilt or remorse by others discovering our sin, **true** awareness and consciousness of sin, and the beginning of true repentance of sin, of whatever kind it may be, is understood to be ultimately sin against God and Him alone:

Isa 42:24

24 Who gave up Jacob to the looter,
and Israel to the plunderers?
Was it not the Lord, against whom we have sinned,
in whose ways they would not walk,
and whose law they would not obey?

Micah 7:9

9 I will bear the indignation of the Lord
because I have sinned against him,
until he pleads my cause
and executes judgment for me.
He will bring me out to the light;
I shall look upon his vindication.

Every relation(ship) in which man stands to his fellow-man, and to created things in general, is but the manifest form of his fundamental relationship to God; and sin is "that which is evil in the eyes of God."

WHY?

Because it is [in] contradiction to the will of God, [who is] the sole and highest Lawgiver and Judge.

Isaiah 65:12

12 I will destine you to the sword,
and all of you shall bow down to the slaughter,
because, when I called, you did not answer;
when I spoke, you did not listen,
but you did what was ***evil in my eyes***

and chose what *I did not delight in*

Psalm 51:4

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.

Note that as David confesses, his confession is not prompted by his emotions in relation to people or the result [consequences] of his sinful conduct. In other words, David's confession is NOT prompted or characterized by worldly sorrow [characterized by despair, depression, and sometimes suicide] but is godly grief.

2 Cor 7:10

10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

Psalm 51:5-6

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

David here confesses his **hereditary sin as the root of his actual sin** [sin nature present in ALL of humanity]. The declaration moves backwards from his birth to conception, it consequently penetrates even to the most remote point of life's beginning.

If our sins have been forgiven through the blood and death of Jesus Christ, why are we still held accountable for the sins committed after salvation?

Have our sins truly been forgiven?

YES. Our sins have been permanently removed from us.

Ps 103:12

12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far does **he remove our transgressions from us.**

Isa 43:25

25 "I, I am he who **blots out your transgressions** for my own sake, and **I will not remember your sins.**

Isa 61:10

10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;
my soul shall exult in my God,
**for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,**

as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Jeremiah 33:8

8 I will **cleans** them from all the **guilt** of their sin against me, and **I will forgive** all the **guilt of their sin and rebellion** against me.

Mic 7:18-19

18 Who is a God like you, **pardoning iniquity** and **passing over transgression** for the remnant of his inheritance?

He does not **retain his anger forever**, because he delights in steadfast love.

19 He will again have compassion on us; he will **tread our iniquities under foot**.

You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Romans 4:7-8

7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are **forgiven**, and whose sins are **covered**;

8 blessed is the man against whom the Lord **will not count his sin**

Romans 8:1

1 There is therefore now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Rom 8:33-35

33 Who shall **bring any charge** against God's elect? [When] It is God who justifies [Who puts us in right relation to Himself? Who shall come forward and accuse or impeach those whom God has chosen? Will God, Who acquits us?]

34 Who is to condemn [us]? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

It is not that the accusations made against believers by Satan and the unbelieving world are always false. The fact that we are not yet sinless is obvious. But even when a charge against us is true, it is never sufficient grounds for our damnation, because all our sins — past, present, and future — have been covered by the blood of Christ and we are now clothed in His righteousness.

Galatians 3:13

13 Christ **redeemed us from the curse of the law** by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—

Ephesians 1:7

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the **forgiveness of our trespasses**, according to the riches of his grace,

Heb 8:12

12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their **sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.**

1 John 2:12

12 I am writing to you, little children, because your **sins are forgiven** for his name's sake.

Since our sins have been permanently removed from us and this forgiveness we have received is irrevocable, why do we have to continually confess our sins?

There are some that believe that you don't have to pray for forgiveness of sins or confess your sins because they have been permanently removed and to do either [pray for forgiveness of sins or confess your sins] is to exhibit a lack of faith in what the Lord has done. However this wrong thinking leads to the erroneous belief that God doesn't care about sins, he doesn't see our sins, doesn't get angry if we do sin, etc.

As believers, we need to understand two things are true regarding our sin:

1. Our sins have been forgiven and completely and permanently removed from us.
[scripture proofs were listed earlier]
2. We are to constantly and habitually confess our sins.

Both are true but how? There seems to be a contradiction.

The answer to this apparent contradiction is that there are two types of forgiveness:

- judicial
- parental

When we were saved, we received what is called **judicial, saving, justifying forgiveness.**

This kind of forgiveness frees us from the PENALTY of sin which is eternal punishment, eternal condemnation, THE ETERNAL WRATH OF GOD.

1 JOHN 1:9 is referring to parental/paternal forgiveness. This forgiveness deals with sanctification. This is granted by God, not as judge but as father.

However, God is still grieved when His children sin.

Yes, we are justified, but He also wants us to be sanctified, to be conformed to the image of Christ.

Psalm 89:29-36

29 I will establish his offspring forever
and his throne as the days of the heavens.
30 If his children forsake my law
and do not walk according to my rules,[e]

31 if they violate my statutes
 and do not keep my commandments,
 32 then I will punish their transgression with the rod
 and their iniquity with stripes,
 33 but I will not remove from him my steadfast love
 or be false to my faithfulness.
 34 I will not violate my covenant
 or alter the word that went forth from my lips.
 35 Once for all I have sworn by my holiness;
 I will not lie to David.
 36 His offspring shall endure forever,
 his throne as long as the sun before me.

A closer look at paternal/parental forgiveness – through discipline/chastisement

1 Cor 11:29-32 [Warning on taking the Lord's Supper irreverently]

29 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

30 That is why many of you are **weak** and **ill**, and some have **died**.

31 But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged.

32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

Hebrews 12:5-11

5 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
 nor be weary when reproved by him.

6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
 and chastises every son whom he receives."

7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

8 If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

9 Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?

10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Prov 3:11-12

11 My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline
 or be weary of his reproof,

12 for the Lord reproves him whom he loves,
 as a father the son in whom he delights.

1 John 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful [fully trustworthy, completely dependable, totally reliable; sure, true, solid] **and just** [righteous, upright, virtuous] **to forgive us** [parentally not judicially] **our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

An illustration of judicial and parental/ paternal forgiveness

John 13:1-11

1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

2 During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him,

3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God,

4 rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist.

5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?"

7 Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand."

8 Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me."

9 Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

10 Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you."

11 For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

When the Lord disciplines us, it's the kind of discipline that deals with our sin and brings us to repentance, confession, forgiveness, and restored joy.

It isn't the bath. We need one bath and many times need our feet washed.

1 John 1:9

9 If we confess [present tense - to admit it, acknowledge it, say the same thing about it and have the same attitude towards it that God has – The sin is a breaking and a violation of God's law] **our sins** [a transgression, a breaking, a violation of God's law, commands and precepts; to behave with complete disregard for the laws or regulations of a God - 'to live lawlessly, lawlessness, lawless living.'], **he is faithful** [fully trustworthy, completely dependable, totally reliable; sure, true, solid] **and just** [righteous, upright, virtuous] **to forgive** [parental not judicial SEE BELOW] **us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Scripture is teaching us to be continually confessing our sin, continually asking the Lord to forgive us and cleanse us. When we do that, He is faithful and just to forgive us.

Faithful because we are His, and He made a covenant with us.

Sin needs to be confessed and forsaken **as a regular pattern of life**, not before a judge who will otherwise condemn us to hell, but before a Father who will otherwise chasten us.

This forgiveness is parental forgiveness, relational forgiveness, it's restorational.

Your justification is a fixed and settled reality.

Your sanctification ebbs and flows dependent on how you deal with the sin in your life.

Ps 51:7-12

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

8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

9 Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

11 Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Chastisement/discipline seems to deal with the person. In other words, the heart, the attitude, the soul, the mind, the will, and the emotions of a person.

Whereas **consequences** seem to or may deal with **the act**/sin that was performed.

CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

When we confess our sins and the lord forgives us of our sins, does that reverse the consequences of our sin?

NO.

Gal 6:7

7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, **for whatever one sows, that will he also reap**

Jeremiah 17:10

10 "I the Lord search the heart
and test the mind,
to give every man according to his ways,
according to the fruit of his deeds."

Example of consequences even after confession of sin and parental/paternal forgiveness

2 Sam 12:13-15

13 David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

14 Nevertheless, because by this **deed** you have utterly scorned the Lord, **the child who is born to you shall die.**"

15 Then Nathan went to his house.

Ps 51:3

3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is **ever before me.**

What did God promise David?

2 Sam 7:14-17

14 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, **I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men,**

15 but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.

16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever." **17 In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.**

God did not eliminate the consequences of David's sins but continued to show him loving kindness and compassion. In the same way, He will show forgiveness and compassion to all of His children.

If you sin, He will discipline you. Why?

To bring you to the place of confession so that your joy, your holiness and your righteousness can be restored.

And then when you face the consequence of your sin, He will minister to you His lovingkindness, His grace and mercy and His compassion.

The aim of confession is forgiveness leading to restored joy. It is not to erase consequences.

1 John 1

The forgiveness here in **1 John 1:9** is parental forgiveness can also be **relational** forgiveness which leads to **restoration**.

Ps 51:12

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Ps 32:1-5

1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

2 Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Selah

5 I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "**I will confess** my transgressions to the Lord,"
and **you forgave** the iniquity of my sin.

Hebrews 12:1

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also **lay aside** every weight, **and sin** which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Psalms 32:3-5

3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Selah

5 I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "**I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,**"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Selah

Since believers are forgiven, they will regularly confess their sins.

Stated another way, their forgiveness is not because of their ongoing confession, but their ongoing **pattern of....confession** is because of our [judicial] **forgiveness** and **transformation** [If anyone is in Christ Jesus he is a new creature].

As the Holy Spirit sanctifies believers, He continually produces within them a hatred for sin, which results in repentant -hearts and a sincere acknowledgment of their sins.

Psalms 97:10

10 O you who love the Lord, **hate evil!**
He preserves the lives of his saints;
he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Proverbs 8:13

13 The fear of the Lord is **hatred of evil.**
Pride and arrogance and the way of evil

and perverted speech **I hate**.

Romans 7:15-25

15 I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing **I hate**.

Romans 7:24

24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? **25** Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Paul saw himself as the foremost of sinners

1 Timothy 1:15

15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

The more believers grow in Christ, the greater their hatred of sin becomes and the deeper is their repentance, sorrow, remorse, shame.