

God is Light

Homework: Is it possible to not sin in a 24 hour period?

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.

In order for us to walk day by day in fellowship with God and with our fellow believers, we must **confess our sins**: sins of commission, sins of omission, sins of thought, sins of act, secret sins, and public sins. 19

We must drag them out into the open before God, call them by their names, take sides with God against them, and forsake them. 29

Yes, true confession involves forsaking of sins: “He who covers his sins will not prosper: but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy” (Prov. 28:13). How do we cover our sins? 39

When we do that, we can claim the promise that God **is faithful and just to forgive**. He is **faithful** in the sense that He has promised to forgive and will abide by His promise. 49

He is **just to forgive** because He has found a righteous basis for forgiveness in the substitutionary work of the Lord Jesus on the cross. And not only does He guarantee to forgive, but also **to cleanse us from all unrighteousness**. 59

The forgiveness John speaks about here is parental, not judicial. Judicial forgiveness means forgiveness from the penalty of sins, which the sinner receives when he believes on the Lord Jesus Christ. It is called judicial because it is granted by God acting as Judge. 69

But what about sins which a person commits after conversion? As far as the penalty is concerned, the price has already been paid by the Lord Jesus on the cross of Calvary. But as far as fellowship in the family of God is concerned, the sinning saint needs parental forgiveness, that is, the forgiveness of His Father. He obtains it by confessing his sin. 79

We need judicial forgiveness only once; that takes care of the penalty of all our sins —past, present, and future. But we need parental forgiveness throughout our Christian life. 89

When **we confess our sins**, we must believe, on the authority of the word of God, that He forgives us. And if He forgives us, we must be willing to forgive ourselves. 99

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

Finally, in order to be in fellowship with God, we must not deny that we have committed acts of sin. 14

God has stated over and over in His word that all have sinned. To deny this is to **make God a liar**. It is a flat contradiction of His word, and a complete denial of the reason the Lord Jesus came to suffer, bleed, and die. **Why do people deny that they sin? 24**

Thus we see that fellowship with God does not require lives of sinlessness, but rather requires that all our sins should be brought out into His presence, confessed, and forsaken. 34

It means that we must be absolutely honest about our condition, and that there should be no hypocrisy or hiding of what we really are.44

Christ Helps Us

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

John gives us God's perfect standard for His people, and His gracious provision in the event of failure. 12

The **little children** refers to all the members of the family of God. 22

God's perfect standard is then set forth in the words **these things I write to you, that you may not sin**. Because God is perfect, His standard for His people is absolute perfection.36

He would not be God if He said: "These things I write to you so that you sin just as little as you can."46

God cannot condone sin in the least degree, and so He sets perfection before us as the goal.56

The Lord Jesus did this with the woman who was caught in the act of adultery; He said, "Neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more."66

1 John 2:2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. 8

And the Lord Jesus is not only our Advocate, but He is also **the propitiation for our sins**.18