

# 9/24/23-'TRUTH AND DECEPTION' (#2)

## The Essentials of Christian Confession

### PASTOR LEE

Tension:  
Righteousness  
Vs.  
Sin ~

- "Good Morning saints.....good morning sinners!!" (Quoting a favorite speaker)....this greeting exposes an obvious tension: that is, the tension of a group of people saved by Grace (righteous saints) and, concurrently, an impacted people who live in a messed up, dark and sinful world. The 'tension of all time'....starting in the Garden with Adam and Eve- Graced in the presence of God but who then made a calamitous decision and fell. It becomes the storyline of the Bible.....people falling in line with God and people falling away. Becomes the message of the Cross.....Jesus, fully God AND fully man.....never sinned....YET, sinful humanity nails Him to the Cross!! And in doing so, Jesus takes the sins of humanity onto Himself.

God's  
Goodness &  
Mercy!

- This, a God who shows mercy, grace and forgiveness because of His goodness.....undeserving to the forgiven! Refresher from last week: 1John 1:4- -".....writing these words so that our joy may be complete." (Context: in meeting Jesus). Some of us don't feel that joy....we go back to Adam and that first sin....Adam realized his sin and tried but couldn't hide from God. Alternatively, he could have just acknowledged/confessed to Him. In parallel, we also (are naturally) reluctant to confess our sins and we 'hide and defend'.

Choice:  
Confess.....  
...or Hide

- Confession of sin....hugely important for us.....to face a holy God who cannot allow sin in His presence. ...and yet most of us hide/make excuses.....avoiding this spiritual discipline.

The Word~

1John1:5-8 - - This is the message that 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 make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

Follower of  
Jesus  
≠ life of  
Sin

- Passage tells of 3 lies (that are still applicable today): #1: If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie. **YOU CAN'T SAY YOU'RE A FOLLOWER OF JESUS AND LIVE IN SIN. BUT,** you can chose truth and light through Jesus. #2: If we say we have no sin, we lie. **BUT,** if we confess our sins, He will forgive/cleanse us. #3 If we sin, We are calling Him a liar....yet ALL SIN and fall short of the glory of God.

The Alternative  
.....

- **BUT.....**while we sin, we (1John2:1) ".....have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Righteous." Sharing further about 'sin and confession',

....Jesus!

TEXT "notes" to 833-776-2610; this document is entitled: "Essentials For A Disciple-Confession". ....posted on Christ First web site. It is centered on 3 facts: #1: I have sinned #2: My sin has separated me from God #3: If you put your faith AND trust in Jesus alone, all your sins, past, present and future are forgiven because God's holiness required that the PENALTY for sin was paid through the shed blood of Jesus on the Cross. ( called "Justification")

Life-Changing

- A person who is forgiven is joyful/thankful because this is something only God can do!

Scripture

!&  
!&  
Forgiveness

- Some truths about forgiveness: 1. John 19:30- - When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said "IT IS FINISHED", and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. 2. Titus 3:5- -He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness but according to His own mercy, by the washing and regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit. ("Sanctification"....continuous washing.) 3. Psalm 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. 4. Hebrews 8:12- -For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more (there is NO condemnation for those who are in Jesus Christ!...you are declared righteous!). 5. 1 Peter 1:3-4- -Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.

Propitiation!

Holy Spirit  
In Residence!

- "The Great Exchange": 2 Cor 5:21- -For our sake, He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. In doing so, He gives us the Holy Spirit: John 16:8 And when He comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgement. Romans 8:10- -But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. WHEN YOU PUT YOUR FAITH AND TRUST IN JESUS, HE (THE HOLY SPIRIT) RESIDES IN YOU. HE WILL GUIDE YOU!

We STILL  
Sin!!!

- Now, even though we've been justified before God through Christ who has paid our penalty in full, WE STILL SIN. Isaiah 59: 2-3- - 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. For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies and your tongue mutters wickedness. This is why we feel so separated from God and need Christ! We all sin....daily choices...as we do that we push down the Holy Spirit who is present in us. We rationalize, make excuses, feel guilty....a repeating cycle. Painful! Its conviction by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus: Our  
Advocate!

- We need the fullness of the Holy Spirit in our lives!.....thus we confess our sins.....effectually, we are agreeing with God and rejecting our sin(s). Pastor Lee repeats/reminds us of 1 John 7....see above. If we confess our sins in a honest and genuine way, He will forgive us! He reminds of 1 John 2:1 ....I am writing to you so that you may not sin but if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father ..... (Jesus).

Confess &  
Be Whole!

- If you acknowledge you need to confess your sins and pray.....do so...do so timely.....take it to Him! Be genuine, discard your 'persona', be specific, express your sincere sorrow.....and thank Him for freeing you.
- Pastor Lee prays a confessional, in aggregate, on behalf of the whole congregation. Following prayer/confessional, Pastor Lee concludes with: "Saints, having confessed our sins to God, we say with John, Jesus' closest friend, if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If you took this time seriously, consider yourself a forgiven person today.....!"

# CHRISTFIRST ESSENTIALS

FOR A DISCIPLE

## CONFESSION

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. - 1 John 1:9*

### FACTS



#### SIN:

I have sinned against a Holy God in thought, word and deed.



#### SEPARATED:

My sin has defiled me and thus separated me from a Holy God.



#### FORGIVEN:

If you have put your faith and trust in Jesus alone, all your sins past, present and future are forgiven because God's holiness required that the penalty for sin was paid through the shed blood of Jesus on the cross.

#### TRUTHS ABOUT FORGIVENESS

1. **John 19:30** – When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, *“It is finished.”* and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
2. **Titus 3:5** – *He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.*
3. **Psalms 103:12** – *As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*
4. **Hebrews 8:12** – *For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.*
5. **1 Peter 1:3-4** – *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.*



## RIGHTEOUS:

God sees you as Holy and righteous because of Christ's righteousness that was exchanged for your sin.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** – *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*



## HOLY SPIRIT –

God has given you His Holy Spirit to live within you to convict you of sin so that you walk in light and not darkness.

**John 16:8** – *And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.*

**Romans 8:10** – *But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*



## CONFESSION:

Even though you have been forgiven (from the penalty of sin) and now have the Holy Spirit you still sin. Confess your sins so that you don't have your relationship with God hindered.

**Isaiah 59:2-3** – *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. For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies; your tongue mutters wickedness.*

## PATTERN

I can easily get caught in a pattern of SIN – GUILT - SIN – GUILT - SIN – GUILT...

How to get out...

## CONFESS

*Homologeō* (Greek) – To agree with another. To agree with what God says about our sin nature and sinful actions.

### TRUTHS ABOUT CONFESSION

- 1 John 1:7** – *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.*
- 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.*
- 1 John 2:1** – *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father. Jesus Christ*

*the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*

## STEPS OF CONFESSION

**1.** **Confess in prayer**  
sinful thoughts, words and actions to God in prayer.

**2.** **Confess sins right away**  
as soon as you are convicted of them.

**3.** **Thank God for freeing you**  
not only from the penalty of your sin but the guilt you feel.

**Psalm 32:5** – *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 (guilt) of my sin.*

### Barriers to Confession

- Pride
- Hiding from God (Proverbs 28:13)
- Justifying
- Blaming God
- Indifference
- Cold heart

### Encouragements to Confession

- **Ask:** What sin must I acknowledge, confess and request God's forgiveness?
- **Cultivate a soft heart toward God** (Psalm 34:18)
- **Embrace humility** (Psalm 51:17)
- **Hold a proper view of self** (Galatians 6:3-4)
- **Own your sin** (Isaiah 55:7)
- **Practice Repentance** (Romans 2:4)
- **Be thankful** (Psalm 103:2-4)



**Pray this prayer of repentance:**

Dear Lord, I repent and confess to you my sin of \_\_\_\_\_. Thank you that you are faithful and just to forgive me of my sin and cleanse me from all unrighteousness