

TAKING IT HOME

1. Cultivating Confession. Maintaining a habit of confession with God and with one another is essential to healthy relationships. What do you do and/or can you do to help promote confession between you and God and with other people?

With God:

With one another:

2. Cultivating Obedience. Children often have to be made to obey. Mature Christ-followers should desire obedience to God and His commands because our heart is being transformed by God. What do you do and/or can you do to help your heart be transformed into one that desires what God desires?

NEXT STEPS

Which of these NEXT STEPS will you take in order to create a heart that is quick to confess sin and desires the things God desires?

___ Do the insert *Deepening Your Walk with God*.

___ Read 1 John in one sitting at least once (weekly if possible).

___ Commit to Biblical living...no matter what.

___ Live out love...because God loved us first.

___ Share the light of Christ with someone in darkness.

___ Trust in Christ alone for eternal life.

___ Other: _____

PRAYER REQUESTS

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To Sin or Not to Sin

⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

1 John 1:8-10 (NIV84)

Obedience Is Beyond Sin

Claim #1: I am without Sin.

1 John 1:8-10 – See Above

Test: Living people sin.

Q: Do you admit and confess your sin?

Claim #2: I know Him! I abide in Him!

1 John 2:4-6

Test: Living (loving) as Jesus did.

Q: Are you obeying God's commands?

The Sin Paradox

- To say you are without sin is self-deception.
- Saying "I know Him" and sinning is lying.

Answer: Confession, forgiveness, repentance.

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Deepening Your Walk with God

For the week of May 29, 2016

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at the Taking It Home section and Next Steps from last week, how did last week's sermon cause you to live differently?

MY STORY

1. What do you think of the statement: "Christians don't sin"?

2. What do you think of the statement: "Christians don't need to worry about sin because through Christ, God has forgiven us"?

DIGGING DEEPER

Take a few moments and thank God for His Sovereignty over all things. Ask Him to help you to trust Him in all circumstances.

Read Psalm 32 and 1 John 1:8-2:6.

1. **Concealing your sins.** Read 1 John 1:8, 10 and Psalm 32:1-4. What do these verses say about what concealing our sins does to us and to our relationship with God?

What are some ways that we conceal our sins from God?

What are some ways that we conceal our sins from one another?

2. **Confessing Our Sins.** Read 1 John 1:9, 2:1-2 and Psalm 32:5-7. What happens to us and to our relationship with God when we confess our sins to Him?

Read James 5:13-16. Why do you think that we are encouraged to confess our sins to one another in verse 16? What benefit does that bring to us and what benefit does it bring to our relationship with others?

Share a time when your confession of sin to another person brought about spiritual growth and deepened personal relationships.

3. **Obedience Is Beyond Sin.** Read 1 John 2:3-6 and Psalm 32:8-11. What point is the psalmist making with his metaphor of a horse/mule?

Instead of being forced to obey God, how should we act instead? Why is this so important in an authentic relationship with God?

How do you make sense of the Paradox of Sin in your own life?