
Prayer: *Confession, Repentance and Forgiveness*

1 John 1:7-10

“Too big to forgive”

Dave was in turmoil. It had all happened so fast. All he was going to do was a few drug deals. Everybody else does, right? In his neighborhood, it was only the next logical step in the struggle for survival. He's already had run-ins with the law, so drugs wouldn't matter that much.

Now, he'd been caught in the act. The “buy” was part of a large sting operation. After reading him his rights, the police threw him in a holding cell and the legal process was set in motion. He was sentenced to five years. During that time he began to read his Gideon New Testament. Little by little, light invaded his dark world. He began to see where he'd gone wrong and why.

But, the message was too good to be true. Total forgiveness? No way—not after what he'd done. Not after all the other things the cops didn't even know about. The fact is, though, that God did.

Application

Many of the heresies of our time deny that immorality disrupts our communion with God. In short, many deny the concept of sin.

Have you ever felt the way Dave feels? Can you trust your emotions in these matters?

What is true confession? What will God do if we confess? Why?

Accountability and Application

The blood of Christ was shed for all people. The acceptance of this blood is three-fold: 1) Confession begins by stepping out of denial to acknowledge our sin. 2) Repentance continues the process by turning from the sin, to be cleansed and purified. 3) Forgiveness is God's personal assurance of his love for us in Christ, in spite of our sin.

Christians need the Gospel, too! We may not be able to identify with Dave, but there is surely something that is hindering our walk with God. To experience forgiveness, we must walk through the process and return to our loving Father. He's the God of second chances.

PRAYER: Father; it's against you that I have sinned. Worse yet, I've rationalized it away. I've tried to ignore it. I repent of this sin. I want you to take it away. Wash me in the blood of your Son that I may once again be the son you'd have me to be. Lead me in the path of righteousness.

1 John 1:7-10 (ESV)

⁷But 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. ⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.