



Notes:

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When there is sin in our life, and we are genuinely convicted by the Holy Spirit, we should WANT to be right with our forever family and should WANT the prayers and support of our spiritual brothers and sisters.

In II Samuel 12, King David is presented with a “hypothetical situation” laid out by God and Nathan, and as a just ruler, David pronounced judgment only to find himself guilty.

By his own admission, he has found himself a flawed, pathetic adulterer, deceiver, and a murderer. His sin cost Uriah his life and will cost him the life of his son.

He is defenseless and desperately in need of forgiveness, mercy, and grace.

Psalm 51. To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

We must be willing to overcome our vulnerability and allow the church to function as it should.

We must be willing to overcome the fear that comes with confession and allow God to be fully engaged in our lives by exposing the things that keep us from completely serving Him.

Paul encourages the church in Colossae to “put to death” those things affiliated with their earthly nature and their old self in that they died to such things as “sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, covetousness, anger, wrath, malice, slander, obscene talk, and lying.”

In Galatians 5 we tend to focus on the fruit of the Spirit but often skim over the works of the flesh such as: “sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, and orgies.”

Notes:

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There is something to be said for having someone who you trust- that you can confide in. Do not choose this person lightly. Pray about the one with whom you choose to confide.



Notes:

- Who will not judge you but will hold you spiritually accountable? - “Anybody who has once been horrified by the dreadfulness of his own sin that nailed Jesus to the Cross will no longer be horrified by even the rankest sins of a brother.”  
—*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*
- Who will you not lie to when asked hard questions?
- Who can keep your conversation in confidence?
- Who is a good listener?
- Who will pray for you before, during, and after your struggles have been revealed?

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- We know from II Samuel 12 that confession clears the way for forgiveness.
- We know from Nehemiah 9:1-38 that confession clears the way for unhindered worship
- We know from Psalm 32:3-5 that confession brings relief.
- We know from Matthew 5:23-24 that confession clears the way for right relationships
- We know from James 5:13-20 that confession clears the way for real fellowship
- We know from I John 1:1-10 that confession clears the way for freedom and breaks the power of sin.

“The discipline of confession brings an end to pretense. God is calling into being a Church that can openly confess its frail humanity and know the forgiving and empowering graces of Christ. Honesty leads to confession, and confession leads to change.”

—*Richard Foster*

Honest confession not only increases our own spiritual health, but also the health of the congregations we lead. It can change the DNA of the whole church.