## The Path Forward

Goal? To help you deal with the sins that define your life for the rest of your life!

- 1. Admit I have a struggle I cannot overcome without God.
- 2. Acknowledge the breadth and impact of my sin.
  - 3. Understand the origin, motive, and history of my sin.
- 4. Repent to God for how my sin replaced and misrepresented Him.
- 5. Confess to those affected for harm done and seek to make amends.

- 6. Restructure my life to rely on God's grace and His word to transform me.
- 7. Implement the new structure with humility and flexibility.
- 8. Persevere in the new life and identity to which God has called me.
- 9. Steward all of my life for God's glory.

- 1. Nature of Confession
- 2. Problem of Confession
- 3. Stakes of Confession
- 4. Stakes of Confession
- 5. Power of Confession

This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, He who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. 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; and He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

# The Nature of Confession - 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

### Confession (1 John 1:9)

- -ὁμολογέω (homologeō) to admit wrongdoing
- -The verse implies a double cure:
- 1) "forgive us our sins" (the debt of sin)
- 2. "cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (the dirt of sin)

#### Confession 101

- -Scripture describes sin as both debt and dirt, crime and sickness
- 1. It's a crime against God's universal law.
- 2. It's a sickness corrupting God's original design.
- -Confession takes you to the courtroom and the hospital
- -Confession pays the debt and purifies the dirt
- -Confession is a vessel through which we receive God's grace

- 1. Nature of Confession A vessel for God's grace
- 2. Problem of Confession We're no good at it!

# John is calling out a group who claims to know God but doesn't take sin seriously.

- -(v.6) Say they have fellowship with God but walk in darkness
- -(v.8) Say they have no sin
- -(v.10) Say they have not sinned

This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, He who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. 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; and He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

- 1. Nature of Confession A vessel for God's grace
- 2. Problem of Confession We're no good at it!
- 3. Stakes of Confession Your salvation

Accusations	Alternatives
1:6 – You claim fellowship w/God while walking in darkness	1:7 – You can walk in light and be cleansed by Jesus' blood
	1:9 – You can confess your sin and receive forgiveness
1:10 – You say you haven't sinned while God says otherwise	2:1-2 – You can claim the atoning sacrifice of Jesus

## Luke 18:9-14

Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: "Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.'

### Luke 18:9-14

"But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.' I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

- 1. Nature of Confession A vessel for God's grace
- 2. Problem of Confession We're no good at it!
- 3. Stakes of Confession Your salvation
- 4. Stakes of Confession Your personal + relational wellness

- 1. Nature of Confession A vessel for God's grace
- 2. Problem of Confession We're no good at it!
- 3. Stakes of Confession Your salvation
- 4. Stakes of Confession Your personal + relational wellness
- 5. Power of Confession Freedom