

Stepping from *Feelings of Unworthiness* to Forgiveness



Comparing Our Stories

Though Christians are forgiven, we all still struggle with sin and failure.

My experience...

Your experience...

Since receiving Christ, to what degree have you been aware of similar struggles?

Considering Our Struggles

How would you feel if you knew you had failed another person who was very important to you?

How would these feelings affect your actions and responses in the relationship?

How would it impact you if you didn't know that the other person had forgiven you?

What difference does forgiveness make in a relationship?

Sin has a similar impact in our relationship with Christ. How?

Think about it...

How would you change your lifestyle and behavior if Jesus were always physically present with you? Would you have to quit doing certain things so that you would not offend Him? What attitudes would you try to change?

Your sins and struggles will affect how you experience your relationship with Christ, for He is with you always (Hebrews 13:5).

Exploring the Solution

John is writing to a group of believers who have become unsettled by false teachers. In this section, he is dealing with the wrong attitudes about sin in the teaching of these individuals. All of his responses are based on the truth about who God is and what it is like to live in a relationship with Him.

1 John 1:5–2:2

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.⁶If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.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, purifies us from all 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. **2**My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

The Foundation (1:5)

What does it mean that God is light?

What does light do in everyday life?

How would God's character do a similar thing?

1. False Claim (1:6)

Right Response (1:7)

As we live in a right relationship with God, what is happening to our sin?

2. False Claim (1:8)

Right Response (1:9)

What are we to do about our sin?

What does *confess* mean?

What does God do as we confess our sins?

3. False Claim (1:10)

Right Response (2:1-2)

What should we try to do about sin?

What is the ultimate solution to our sin?

Summary

The three wrong approaches:

My sin doesn't matter.

There is nothing wrong with me.

I've done nothing wrong.

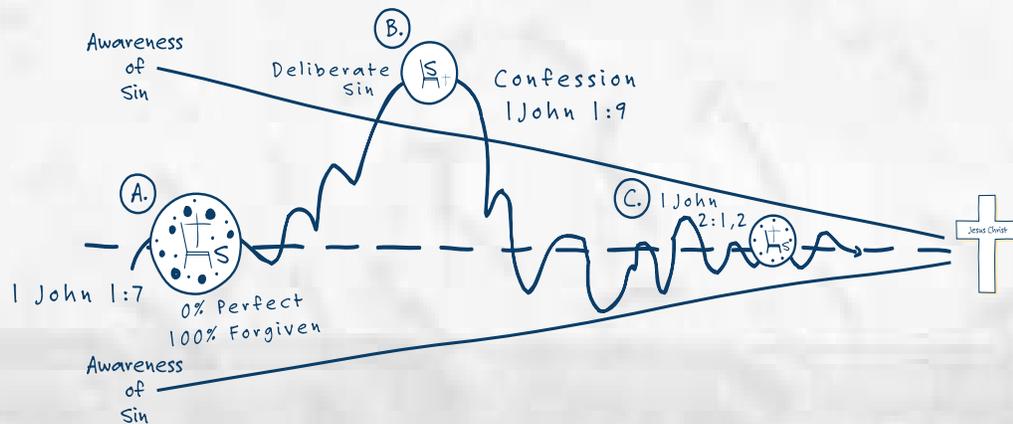
The three right responses:

Walk with God in light of who He is.

Openly agree with God about your sin.

Seek to avoid sin.

Examining the Sketch



The Issue: How do I respond to sin?

A. When I first trusted Christ as my Savior, how many areas of my life were perfect? How many of my sins were forgiven when I came to Christ?

According to 1 John 1:7, how does God deal with the sins and shortcomings of which I'm not aware?

B. According to 1 John 1:9, what should I do when I deliberately disobey God and my life passes outside of the lines?

Confession involves agreeing with God. **1.** Agree that we have sinned. **2.** Agree that he has forgiven it. **3.** Turn away from the sin.

C. The longer I walk with God, what will happen to my awareness of sin? Why?

According to 1 John 2:1-2, what should my attitude be toward sin? Why?

Summary: To walk in the light is...

to live in a love relationship with God in light of His character.

to openly agree with God about my sin.

to seek to avoid sin as I become more conscious of what is displeasing to God.

Taking Steps

Three steps will help you live these truths.

1. Claim Christ's cleansing.

In prayer, thank God for continuing to cleanse you from all sin.

2. Confess specific sins.

On your own, make a list on paper of any sin of which you are currently aware. Confess it to God, writing 1 John 1:9 across the page. Tear up the list. This is a visual reminder that Jesus Christ has cleansed you from your sins by His death.

3. Choose to avoid sin.

Be aware that by ourselves, we lack the ability to change or avoid sin. We must rely on God's power.



Next Concept

FROM UNCERTAINTY TO CONFIDENCE

FROM FEELINGS OF UNWORTHINESS TO FORGIVENESS



FROM BEING UNABLE TO EMPOWERED

FROM BEING UNPREPARED TO EQUIPPED

FROM BEING UNDEVELOPED TO MATURITY

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