



Take Off Your Mask

By Shannon Ford on October 13, 2021

TODAY'S READING: 1 John 1

Before we can be right with God, we must take off the mask. We must look in a mirror and see ourselves clearly. Often, we look at our lives and say, "I'm a pretty good person." What we do not understand is that the sin of our lives, the "little things" as we call them, are just as offensive to a Holy God as stealing or killing! We need to take off our masks and face the truth about our sin. So, what do we do once we have recognized the sin in our lives? Is there any hope for people who are so addicted to rebellion and selfishness? John gives us a wonderful promise here. John states that even the most horrible of sins can be forgiven! The damage we have done can be overcome. We can start new. We can be friends with God even though we have rejected Him in our living. How can this happen? The answer is "confession."

The Greek word for "confess" means "to say the same thing, to agree." To confess our sin means that we say the same thing about our sin that God says about it. It means we must see our sin as hideous and ugly and offensive to a holy and righteous God. Confession is not merely saying, "Sorry!" It is grieving over the sin of our hearts and how it offends God. We must call our sin what it truly is (greed, hatred, lust, rebellion, selfishness) and confess it before God.

John tells us if we will confess and seek His forgiveness, "He is faithful and just to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." God is faithful in extending mercy, but He is also just. This means that God does not shrug our sin off as if it does not matter. He addressed our sin at the cross. Jesus bore the punishment for our sin that we deserved. As a result, the past no longer has any bearing on our relationship with God anymore. We are not only forgiven but we are also cleansed. The slate is wiped clean.

Confession is no small thing. It is not a matter of praying a poetic prayer or making excuses about our lives. We do not pray, "O Lord, if I have done anything wrong, I am sorry." Rather, we pray, "O Lord, I have sinned by (name the sin). My sin cost Jesus His life. I accept your judgment and the consequences for my sin. I turn from my sin and ask You to forgive me and restore me to fellowship with You. Thank You for Your mercy, grace, and love." God's promise is that if we unmask and truly face our sin with genuine grief and confess it before the Lord, we will be forgiven. The sin will be removed and the fellowship with God restored.

PRAYER: Dear Lord, I want confession to become a routine in my life. I know I mess up every single day, but I do not always confess my sins to You. Give me a humble heart and a sensitive spirit so I might be quick to confess and repent of my sins. In Jesus' Name, amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: 1 John 2

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