

## TO DENY OR TO CONFESS MY SIN.

1 John 1:8 - 2:2

### Introduction:

There is a book by a noted psychiatrist entitled "Whatever became of sin"?

What has become of sin is that people prefer to ignore it. They certainly do not wish to neglect it, but they simply are not willing to admit it.

Sin, in the eyes of many, is an old fashioned idea. It is not fashionable to talk about sin today. We after all live in an age that claims that there is no complete right or wrong. Our society today thinks that all truth is relative. As a result, we became a society that has lost its moral direction and foundation. It should be obvious to any thinking person, just from watching TV and reading news papers and magazines that we are struggling with human immorality on a comprehensive scale.

Why is it that we do not want to be honest about sin? One reason could be that we so much enjoy doing it. Human beings just like to sin! In fact, sin is often encouraged in our culture. This is an evil strategy. Satan has sold the lie that sin is fun and brings us fulfilment. It is a lie, because sin may be fun, but it never brings fulfilment. Many bought the lie and rather than dealing with sin, chose to deny it. This is the choice of self-deception.

There are eternal consequences to sin and although we do not like to think about it, it remains a deadly risk! What do you do with your sin? John, in our text, tells us that there are really **only two options available to us**. *We can either deny it or we can confess it.*

### WHEN WE DENY IT

*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. (1 John 1:8) If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. (1 John 1:10)*

We prefer to deny the existence of sin, or the impact of sin, or the degree of sin, or the consequences of sin. We don't like to admit that we are capable of doing something really rotten. We especially do not like to admit that we do bad things because it is our character to do it. We would feel much better if we could claim that we are without sin.

**While we do not like to admit it, it remains our natural character is to be sinners.** The Bible teaches that all of us were born with a sinful nature. As a result of our sinful nature, we keep on sinning. We may deny that we are really not affected by this nature. We may deny that sins are really wrong. We may call them mistakes. We may call abortion a women's right to choose. We may call a lie bending the truth. We may call our prejudices our personal convictions. None of this will change the truth that we have sinned and are under the judgement of God.

The result of denying sin is self-deception. This is what John tells us: We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Another result is that we insult God. *John says in our text that we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.* When we reject God's word, we reject Him. The result of denying sin, is therefore eventual judgment and condemnation, because we call God a liar and do not seek his only solution to sin - the Way, the Life and the truth - our Lord Jesus Christ!

When we deny sin, we reject Jesus. We say that we do not need Him, His cross and His victory, because we claim to be victorious over sin ourselves. But Jesus came to save us from our sins. He is the great physician. If you never admit that there is something wrong with your spiritual life and your natural character, you will never go to the One who has the cure. If you are not sick, you will not go to the doctor. If you have no sin, why do you need the Saviour? Then you do not need forgiveness, because you never did anything wrong.

The problem is when we deny the sickness, we die from it and when we deny our sin, we will eventually be condemned for it.

## IF WE CONFESS IT

*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 defence - Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:1-2). If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)*

***The alternative to denying sin is to deal with it.*** This is to get rid of sin, in God's way!

This is an extension of John's discussion on walking in the light. In the previous passage he talked about how walking in the light is the key to fellowship with God. It is also the key to a continuous cleansing from sin. Walking in the light does not hide our sin, it exposes it. Once exposed, we can then deal with it honestly. We can confess it and receive forgiveness.

John tells us that his desire - and certainly also God's will - is that we avoid sin altogether. John tells us that the reason he has written all these things, is that we will not sin. John wants us to walk in the light and to avoid the darkness. He knows the impact of sin on our lives. He knows the cost of sin and he wants us to avoid it.

*But the Bible also teaches in our text that we will not be perfect. We know what we are made of and so does God. The Bible reminds us that if anybody does sin, we have One who speaks to the Father in our defence, Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.* Here lies the secret of dealing with your sins. God has given us a way out. Through Jesus Christ we can get rid of our sins. Jesus is the one who speaks to the Father in our defence. He can defend us, because he has done everything to take care of our sins and its consequences.

Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Through His sacrifice on the cross He paid the penalty for our sins once and for all. When Jesus was crucified, he took our sins upon Himself. He bore the sins of the whole world. His death paid the penalty for every sin we have ever committed.

It is on that basis that all our sins can be forgiven when we come to Christ. It is on that basis that He became our advocate. He can plead our case on the basis of His work on the cross. He has carried our sin. This is what makes it possible for a person to be forgiven. Because of Christ's death, God has made a way for us to get rid of our sins and be delivered from the hold it has on our lives.

### **Appeal:**

God calls us to deal with our sin by confessing it. Confession simply means to agree with God. The word comes from words that literally mean to "agree with." We are to stop denying our sins and admit the truth that we are sinners and that it is our character to sin. When we do this, God will forgive and purify us from our sins. He will raise us up to the new life in His Spirit. We will see the resurrection life that He wants to give us. We will be more than conquerors.

In 1 John 1:9 we read, "If we confess our sins, he **is faithful and just** and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." He is faithful and just. **He is faithful to His own word and His own nature.** His nature is love and compassion and His word has given us **the promise of forgiveness** through Jesus Christ our Lord. **He also is just. Christ's sacrifice has satisfied God's perfect justice.** The penalty has been paid.

Are you willing to confess all of your sins today? Are you willing to be 100% honest about your life of darkness, exposed by the light of Christ? What do you do with sin? Thank God, who dealt with it in Jesus Christ! We may all leave as free and forgiven people today. We may live in the holy presence of God, because we have been forgiven.

*This is the Word of God.*

*Amen.*

*Any comments on this sermon outline may be mailed to Andries Combrink at [info@cpk.co.za](mailto:info@cpk.co.za)*