



**IMPACT COMMUNITIES**  
real life. real impact.

**Sequoia Impact Communities are a place to experience real life & real impact.**

To get plugged in email:

**impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org**

**Confess to One Another #8 of 9 - Aug. 28**

1. Take some time to share about how God has been working in and through you this past week using the B.L.E.S.S. habits questions.
  - How has the Gospel been a **Blessing** to you this week?
  - What are you hearing from God as you **Listen** to the Spirit & read God's Word, the Bible?
  - Who have you had an opportunity to **Eat** with this week to build relationship?
  - Who has God led you to **Serve** this week?
  - In what ways have you been able to **Share** about Jesus this week?
2. What resonated with you from the message? What do you think of when you think about confession? What kind of emotions does this create in you and why?
3. Read James 5:13-20. How is this passage a good picture of true Christian community? What role does corporate confession play in developing this kind of community?
4. Read the quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer and discuss the ideas and implications contained within it.
5. What does it mean for you to "dare to be a sinner saved by grace" in the context of Christian community? Why is this hard and why is it so necessary for our growth?
6. Read 1 John 1:6-10. What does John tell us about confession? Why is confession an important but often neglected aspect of the Christian life? What promises does God give us in this passage?
7. Read 1 John 2:1-2. What does this tell us about ourselves and about God? What kind of confidence does this give you as you dare to be a sinner saved by grace?
8. Read and pray through Psalm 32 together, or as individuals, and respond to God.



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## SEQUOIA NOTES

### Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

#### Confess to One Another

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor

August 28, 2016



The Love of Jesus at Work in His Church

James 5:13-20: Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. <sup>14</sup> Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.

<sup>16</sup> Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! <sup>18</sup> Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops.

James 5:16 "Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed." The Message

#### Why do we recoil at the thought of corporate confession?

#### Why do we confess?

**Big Idea: Confession is good for our body, soul, and spirit.**

- **Confession of sin helps us apply the Gospel to our lives.**

1 John 1:6-10

*"The Christian way essentially consists in acknowledging ourselves to be sinners and in praying for grace" Martin Luther*

*Confession helps us dare to be sinners saved by grace.*

- **Confession in community opens up the way to true transformation.**

*BonHoeffler - Life Together "In confession the break-through to community takes place. Sin demands to have a [person] by themselves. It withdraws [them] from the community. The more isolated a person is, the more destructive will be the power of sin over them, and the more deeply he [or she] becomes involved in it, the more disastrous is [their] isolation. Sin wants to remain unknown. It shuns the light. In the darkness of the unexpressed it poisons the whole being of a person. This can happen even in the midst of a pious community. In confession the light of the Gospel breaks into darkness and seclusion of the heart. The sin must be brought into the light. The unexpressed must be openly spoken and acknowledged. All that is secret and hidden is made manifest. It is a hard struggle until the sin is openly admitted. But God breaks the gates of brass and bars of iron (Ps. 107:16)."*

- **The call to confession is the call to the great grace of God.**

1 John 2:1-2

*The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service are from the New Living Translation(NLT) and The Message.*