

## December 3rd – How Can I Be Forgiven?

*“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)*

Today’s verse highlights the absolute necessity of confession. We live in a world where some people think they are without sin. In the verse proceeding this one, John says, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” We can act like we’ve never done anything wrong, but deep down we know that’s a lie. Each of us was born with a disposition toward sin and given enough time every human being willfully sins against God. We fall short daily!!

The good news is that we don’t have to stay in our sins. There is a way that we can be forgiven for every wicked thing we’ve ever done. “If we confess our sins.” What does it mean to confess? The Greek word for “confess” is *homologeō*. Literally, it means to say the same thing as another, or to agree. When we confess our sins to God, we’re agreeing with God that our failures fall short of His perfection. We agree that our actions prove His perfection and demonstrate our imperfection.

If we’re willing to confess our sins to God by the conviction of the Holy Spirit, the Bible says that “He is faithful and just to forgive our sins.” That means God is faithful to His Word – if He says He will forgive those who repent, that’s exactly what He means. God’s justice demands that He is compassionate and fair – healing our broken spirits. And not only that – He will even “cleanse us from all unrighteousness” - ridding us of unrighteous desires and molding us into the image of His Son!