**What do I do with my sin?**

*1 John 2:1-2*

**Introduction**

1. **1 John 5:13** – John writes his epistle to give the Christian confidence in his standing with God.
2. **1 John 2:1a** – confidence does not come with sin – **1 John 1:5-6** – God cannot have fellowship with sin.
3. **1 John 2:1b-2** – sin can still happen, and does happen, however, confidence is found in the Advocate. (Propitiation; **Romans 3:25**, by His blood – through faith)
4. What does a child of God do when they find themselves guilty of sin? – A fundamental question, but one which is still widely misunderstood.
   1. What does the faith reveal?
   2. The confidence John is seeking to give is dependent on knowing the truth on this matter.
5. Know It
6. ***“And if anyone sins” (1 John 2:1)*** – can such be known?
   1. **1 John 1:8-10** – rejection of knowledge of sin, and acknowledgment of sin.
   2. **How else can you repent, confess, ask forgiveness of it**?
7. Assuming is Not Knowing
   1. Assume – suppose to be the case, without proof (New Oxford American Dictionary)
      1. False presuppositions leading to such constant assumption of sin – sinful nature (**cf. Romans 7:9; Ezekiel 18:20; 1 John 3:7-8**); inability (**cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13**)
      2. **1 John 3:4** – the law manifests sin as a transgression of it.
      3. It can be known and must be known – **Romans 7:7, 12** – law makes us aware of sin to avoid it and convict us when we’re guilty of it. (**2 Timothy 3:16** – ***“reproof”*** – “proof, conviction,” STRONG)
   2. Forgiveness must be sought – **Isaiah 55:6-7** – the seeking is preceded by the knowledge of the sin.
      1. Some think there is safety in assuming, but the conditions of forgiveness cannot be met without knowledge.
      2. **(v. 7)** – what is his way, what are his thoughts, from where is he returning what is being pardoned?
8. Pray for Knowledge
   1. What if I’ve sinned, and don’t know? – sins of ignorance – not to just assume you have, but you won’t know you have until it is revealed. (**cf. Leviticus 4:13-14**)
   2. Knowledge of God’s will – **Psalm 119:17-19 (cf. 2 Timothy 2:15)**
   3. Knowledge of sin – **Psalm 139:23-24**
   4. Jesus’ prayer – **Luke 23:34** – was followed by a convicting sermon (**cf. Acts 2).**
9. Knowledge of our sin is necessary for it to be dealt with properly and forgiven, as is seen in the conditions placed by God.
10. Repent of It
11. To become a child of God – **Acts 2:38; 17:30**
12. To receive forgiveness of sin as a child of God – **Acts 8:20-23**
13. Repentance Requires Knowledge of Sin
    1. ***“Repent therefore of this” (Acts 8:22)*** – he knew what ***“this”*** was.
    2. **Repent** – *metanoeō* – “lit., “to perceive afterwards” (*meta*, “after,” implying “change,” *noeo*, “to perceive”; *nous*, “the mind, the seat of moral reflection”), in contrast to *pronoeo* [**Romans 12:17**], “to perceive beforehand,” hence signifies “to change one’s mind or purpose,”” (VINE)
    3. **By definition, I cannot repent of something I do not know – think differently about something I do not know.**
    4. Repentance is given/granted – **Acts 5:31; 11:18 – helps in understanding the inclusion of knowledge in the concept.**
       1. Given through preaching the gospel – **Luke 24:47**
       2. Jews – **Luke 23:34** – how could they repent if they did not know – **Acts 3:13-15, 17-19** – information given, called to think differently, thus repentance given.
       3. Gentiles – **Acts 10:6, 22, 33; 11:14** – Peter sent to preach the gospel, in doing so God granted them repentance, and confirmed it to the Jews by giving the HS to them.
14. Repentance is not Penitence
    1. Two words:
       1. ***Metanoia*** – “lit., “to perceive afterwards” (*meta*, “after,” implying “change,” *noeo,* “to perceive”)” (VINE)
          1. Change of mind about the sin.
       2. ***Metamelomai*** – “*meta*, as in No. 1 [“after,” implying “change”], and *melo*, “to care for,” (VINE)
          1. Change of emotion about the sin.
          2. Penitence.
       3. **These two are very closely related, and play off one another, but cannot be separated.**
          1. **Some have oversimplified repentance by making it synonymous with penitence.**
          2. **Repentance which saves is not merely sorrow for sin.**
       4. EX: Judas Iscariot repented – **Matthew 27:3** – ***“was remorseful” (NKJV); “repented himself” (ASV, KJV)*** – *metamellomai*
          1. ***“he changed his mind” (ESV)*** – not as accurate, for he did not seek to rectify wrong, but was merely overwhelmed by the emotion of it – guilt (**v. 5** – hanged self).
          2. ***“that he might go to his own place” (Acts 1:25*** – idiom for eternal punishment).
    2. Repentance is a change of the entire inward man – Intellect 🡪 Emotion 🡪 Will – **2 Corinthians 7:8-11**
       1. **Intellect** – (**v. 8a**) – Letter written to provoke in them a change of mind.
          1. Seeking to ***“give repentance” (Acts 5:31)*** to them by convicting them of sin.
          2. NOTE: ***“regret”*** – *Metamelomai* – care for afterwards, i.e. Paul initially had a negative feeling about writing the letter knowing it would make the Corinthians feel bad, but when it produced change in them that feeling went away.
             1. ***“I do not”*** – present
             2. ***“though I did”*** – past
       2. **Emotion** – **(vv. 8b-9)** – Letter made them sorry.
          1. Sorrow itself is not enough – **(v. 10)** – worldly sorrow.
             1. Cain – **Genesis 4:5-7** – angry, countenance fell.
             2. Judas Iscariot – ***“was remorseful” (Matthew 27:3).***
          2. ***“in a godly manner”*** – i.e. as it pertains to a godward attitude of reverence.
             1. The sorrow itself directly corresponded to the conviction of sin before God – not a shallow feeling of general guilt, but that in God’s presence.
             2. David – **Psalm 51:3-4**
       3. **Will** – **(vv. 9-11)** – The sorrow being of a godly sort led them to change their will, which naturally demonstrated itself.
          1. **(v. 10)** – sorrow PRODUCED repentance – *Metanoia* – think differently afterwards.
          2. A true change of mind/will must and will produce a change in action – **(v. 11)** – ***“observe,” “proved.”***
          3. True repentance results in a turn – **Acts 26:17-20** – ***“turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.”***
             1. Befitting – suitable to, congruous with, etc.
             2. **I.e. sorrow produces repentance produces change of action corresponding to the change of mind.**
             3. Fruits of repentance – **Luke 3:8, 10-14**

**Radical – Acts 19:19 – bonfire of repentance.**

1. **Finding forgiveness of our sin cannot come unless we know it, change our will concerning it to be conformed to God’s will, and cease the sin while pursuing God’s righteousness.**
2. Confess It
3. It would be insufficient to have a change of action without confession.
   1. If one was not willing to confess to wrongdoing, it is not unreasonable to question whether their will had been changed.
   2. Confession is itself a NECESSARY FRUIT OF TRUE REPENTANCE.
4. Confession of Sin is a Condition of Forgiveness
   1. **1 John 1:9** – ***“if”*** makes this a condition of forgiveness – ***“if [not]”*** then the sins will not be forgiven.
   2. **Like repentance, confession requires knowledge – not assumed guilt, but absolute certainty of guilt with specific conviction:**
      1. ***“If we confess our sins”*** – NOT: “If we confess THAT WE HAVE sinned,” or “If we confess our SINFULNESS,” “If we confess THAT WE MAY HAVE sinned” – these are more generic than the language of the verse.
      2. What are/is the sin/s that we have committed?
      3. **Confess** – *homologeō* **– “**lit., “to speak the same thing” (*homos*, “same,” *lego*, “to speak”), “to assent, accord, agree with,” denotes…(b) “to confess by way of admitting oneself guilty **of what one is accused of**, the result of inward conviction,” 1 John 1:9” (VINE)
      4. **Acts 19:18-19** – confessing their deeds.
      5. Confession of sin brings one face to face with their sin, manifesting true accountability and ownership of the wrongdoing – **Psalm 32:3-5** – from hiding, to admitting and being accountable before God.
         1. **Proverbs 28:13** – confession precedes mercy.
   3. **Implications:**
      1. **Confession of sin cannot be done for sins of ignorance. (Until they are known, thus, no longer ignorant of them.)**
      2. **Confession of sin (true) cannot be done without conviction.**
      3. **Confession of sin (true) cannot be vague, or general.**
   4. NOTE: Not “total recall” – i.e. the Bible does not teach that in order to be forgiven we have to detail the exact moment or context of sin, but we have to confess what we’re guilty of.
      1. One who has fallen away and come back will not necessarily remember every detail of every moment of sin, but they know the sins they were given to. (**cf. Luke 15:21** – Prodigal son)
      2. **Drunkard must confess his drunkenness – not catalog each time he drank and list it before God. (But cannot simply make a vague confession of sin); Adulterer must confess his adultery; liar must confess his lie; etc.**
5. Pray for Forgiveness of It
6. Forgiveness Must be Asked for in Prayer
   1. **1 John 1:9** – the confession of sin to God is implied to be in prayer – this is how we communicate with God.
   2. Simon was told to pray **– Acts 8:22**
      1. If he repented, stopping the sin and pursuing righteousness, confessed his sin, but did not confess to God and ask God to forgive him he would still have his sin.
   3. Forgiveness belongs to God, and we MUST ask Him for it – **Mark 2:5-7; Matthew 7:7; 1 John 5:14-15**
7. Prayer Can be Requested of Others
   1. Simon asked Peter to pray for him – **Acts 8:24** – Peter did not object, this is an approved example. (**cf. James 5:16**)
   2. **1 John 5:14-17** – must be according to the Father’s will – i.e. not that God will forgive the sinner who has not repented and confessed to Him.
      1. ***“sin which does not lead to death”*** – sin that is dealt with according to God’s will – repented, confessed, forgiven.

**Conclusion**

1. Though sin may come into our lives again, we can be forgiven and restored to fellowship with God – **1 John 2:1-2**
2. However, there is only confidence for forgiveness in dealing with our sin according to God’s divine standard.
3. **What do I do with my sin? I must do what God tells me to do with my sin.**