

## Week 10

### Love Compels Us (4)

#### Confession

“The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works.” – St. Augustine.

The apostle John tells the church,

*“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” – 1 John 1:8-9*

We often live in a strange place between thinking of ourselves as, “basically good people” and acknowledging that we are sinners. We understand and fully acknowledge that, “*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*” while at the same time we rarely confess specific sins. In a way, we are claiming to be “sinners” without acknowledging our sin and thus we flirt with deception. The deception causes us to believe that the less we have to confess, the better off we are. John reminds us that we must approach the topic of sin acknowledging the truth.

There are two important truths we need to remember concerning sin. First, as Christians saved by grace we strive to live by the Spirit, using the Spirit’s power to destroy sin in our lives. We strive to live holy lives. Second, we must acknowledge John’s words, that pretending that we do not sin keeps us from making progress in our faith. Only when we “confess our sins” do we discover that we are purified.

We long to be purified, cleansed of guilt, shame, regret, and self-deception. God’s purifying power washes over us when we acknowledge our sins before God expressing our trust in his love and forgiveness. We need to practice the discipline of confessing our specific sins before God, not a general “forgive me” statement, but rather a full acknowledgement of the sin. “Father forgive me for being selfish and wanting my way.” “Father, forgive me for trying to do things without you.”

#### **This Week**

- Spend time in prayer confessing specific sins to the Father and listen for him to say, “I remember your sin no more.”

## Week 10

**Mar 7-13**

<b>Sun</b>	<i>What specific action can you do this week related to your growth goals?</i>			<b>7</b>
<b>Mon</b>	Ex 20	Rom 3	Psa 46	<b>8</b>
<b>Tue</b>	Ex 21	Rom 4	Psa 47	<b>9</b>
<b>Wed</b>	Ex 22	Rom 5	Psa 48	<b>10</b>
<b>Thr</b>	Ex 23,24	Rom 6	Psa 49	<b>11</b>
<b>Fri</b>	Ex 25	Rom 7	Psa 50	<b>12</b>
<b>Sat</b>				<b>13</b>