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Confessing Our Sin to Him—P10

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

We all break the Law of God. We all sin. All sin is relational—relational to God and other people. Yet, all sin is ultimately against God: *“Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge”* (Ps. 51:4).

Now, sometimes when we sin, it is in the open: *“The sins of some men are quite evident, going before them to judgment; for others, their sins follow after”* (1 Tim. 5:24). Yes, “secret” sins can remain so for years before surfacing into the open, or perhaps never in this lifetime. In relationships, it can be hard to acknowledge the sins we openly commit, even though everyone can see them. We do a good job excusing and justifying ourselves, because admitting we did something wrong makes us feel bad about ourselves.

It is much more difficult to confess our secret sins or failings. After all, if no one knows, they can’t judge you, so why bring it up? It is especially difficult to confess our secret sins to those who are closest to us. In particular our spouses. Their opinion of us matters greatly. We know it hurts them, and it hurts us too. Perhaps we fear losing face. It can hurt our pride and self-respect. The temptation can be to just ignore it and pretend it isn’t a problem—to let what is presently in the dark remain in the dark for as long as possible.

Yet, a wise man once said, *“He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion. How blessed is the man who fears always, But he who hardens his heart will fall*

into calamity” (Pro. 28:13-14).

Some spouses go many years with unaddressed sin between them, because one or both refuse to acknowledge it. Yet, whether secret or open, unaddressed sin disrupts relationships because relationships are built on truth and trust. Sin harms relationships because unaddressed sin is living a lie that breaks trust. If we care about our relationship, we must acknowledge it and confess it.

Just as sin affects our human relationships, it also disrupts the Bride’s relationship with her Beloved. The difference is that in our relationship with Jesus, no sin is concealed. He already knows everything we’ve done in the dark: *“You have placed our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your presence”* (Ps. 90:8). For this reason, the Bride of Christ must confess her sin rather than pretending that she can ignore it, hoping it will just go away. She needs to see it for what it is and acknowledge it to her Beloved: *“I am ready to fall, And my sorrow is continually before me. For I confess my iniquity; I am full of anxiety because of my sin”* (Ps. 38:17-19).

The Bride is to trust her Husband and bring her sin into the light of His presence: *“I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord’; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah”* (Ps. 32:5).

Do you trust your spouse enough to confess your sin to them? Do you trust that they will forgive you and embrace you and love you despite what you have done when you confess and forsake it? This is Jesus’ promise to His Bride, for He *“loves us and released us from our sins by His blood”* (Rev. 1:5b), even when He knew exactly what we’d done and who we were. *“Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need”* (Heb. 4:16). Even so, Amen.

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