

Defying Gravity
Pastor Tim
February 23-24, 2019

Title: A Double Standard

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

Summary of Chapter 5: Paul called out the Corinthian Christians for failing to confront serious sin in their fellowship.

Main Thought: Your Posture Toward Sin (all sin) Has The Potential To Make Or Break Both Your Life And The Life Of Our Church


Going Deeper Questions:


1. Why are we so uncomfortable to address sin in the lives of people close to us?
2. There seems to be quite an appetite for pastors to call out the sins of society while ignoring sin within the church. Why is it so much easier to judge “out there” than “in here?”
3. It is quite easy to become calloused or indifferent to sin. What are some practices you have found effective to keep your heart soft and broken when you encounter sin?
4. The message began with simple examples of knowing how to interrupt downward skids (ie. Skiing or Big Rig drivers). What have you found to be effective methods of interrupting downward skids in your own life?
5. One of the suggestions on the Spiritual Growth Exercise was that you might find it helpful to share confession appropriately with a trusted spiritual friend. Discuss the benefits and risks of doing this.


Never Stop Praying:


- For our Faith Community to understand and practice this exercise of confession

SPIRITUAL GROWTH EXERCISE

 **ACT:** Choose a time and GO. (Symbolically we suggest going to the parking lot of any church near you but any intentionally chosen place will do.) Physically, Emotionally, Mentally and Spiritually engage. Turn off all distractions. Kneeling is recommended but not essential.

 **CONFESS:** You might be aware of sin or wrong in your life that needs to be confessed. Initially you might not have anything specific in mind. If so, pray this: “Search me O God and know my heart.” Make no excuses, offer no rationale, just humbly confess your wrong to God.

 **CONSIDER NEXT STEPS:** If you have a trusted spiritual friend there is power in sharing what you’ve done in appropriate detail. Sharing brings accountability. Is there an aspect of your confession that involves making amends with someone you’ve wronged? Make a plan to do it. Is there sin in a group you are part of that needs to be addressed? Consider how you might appropriately demonstrate your love and care by not allowing it to continue unchecked.

 **BLESSING:** Receive the promise and blessing of God. “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) This is God’s promise and blessing to you – receive it and leave your time of confession deeply blessed. Before leaving, offer a prayer of blessing over whatever church whose property you visited – imagine a couple thousand people from Trinity offering blessings to churches throughout our community – Powerful!