



The Creed

Part 6 – I Believe in the Forgiveness of Sins

Pastor Ted Cunningham

I believe in the forgiveness of sins. If you have your Bibles, turn to 1 John 1. We're going to start the message and end the message there today.

I had a professor in seminary... I learned a lot in seminary, but, boy, there were some things, with the passion at which they were delivered, that stuck out to me. A couple of things I learned. I took a class by Dr. Robert Lightner. He's an older gentleman that had been at Dallas for a long time and I remember him getting passionate about this. I think his passion was flowing from the church growth movement where he was kind of getting worn out on the fluffy, feel-good, fuzzy, warm message. He would stand up and with fire... I could tell he wasn't even going off any notes, but he would hit that little lectern and he would go, "Let me tell you something! If you're going to profess the gospel of Jesus, you must talk about sin!" He was really fired up.

He said, "You can't just tell people they're saved, you need to tell them what they are saved from!" Then he would say, "Let me tell you how to talk to them about sin! Quit telling people sin is missing the mark. That's only half true. Sin is missing the mark and hitting the wrong mark." I was like, *Alright! You're not going to grow any church with that kind of attitude, Dr. Lightner.* I think that's what he was coming against. I was like, *You need to get some smoke, some skinny jeans, and you need to get after this and make your message a little...* It was depressing.

He was trying to get into us, the ones going out and leading churches and all of that, to never shy away from the topic of sin because Jesus died for our sin. He took that upon himself. He said, "Don't ever shy away from that for fear people are going to leave." And as we approach needing a third service, I'm going to do a twelve-week series on sin. We're going to keep this church at two services, no matter what it takes.

Then I would go into Chapel and Dr. Charles Swindoll... If you've ever listened to Dr. Swindoll on the radio, man, he gave me something... Again, these are lines you never have to write down. I hope you remember them because the first time I heard them it went into my brain and it has been there for over twenty years. He said, "Let me tell you something, sin will take you farther than you want to go, and keep you way longer than you ever intended on staying."

So, as we dive into this today, I want us to remember the Creed is a proclamation made by a born-again believer, someone who has placed faith alone in Christ alone, standing up and saying "This is what I believe."

Some of you grew up in churches where the pastor would say at the beginning of reciting the Creed, "Christian, what do you believe?" And you would stand up and say, "I believe in God the Father, Almighty Creator of heaven and earth..."

Pat tells me the story of reciting that in England and she said one old guy would stand up and there was a fist pound on every line of the Creed because that's what he believed.

So, today, as we talk about the forgiveness of sins, we're not going to be spending a lot of time in the justification, the being declared righteous, the freedom we have from the penalty of sin, which comes at the moment of salvation. You were justified, declared righteous. We're talking today about sanctification. We're talking about being freed from the power of sin because to say you have a relationship with God and you desire fellowship with God, but you choose to live in a sinful lifestyle, the scripture says this cannot be.

We're talking about fellowship today and we'll dig right in to 1 John 1. ***5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him... That's the baseline today. If you claim to be a born-again believer in Christ Jesus, you claim to have fellowship with him, and yet... Now we move past that. ...and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another...***

So, it's not just our relationship with God; it's our relationship with each other. And when sin isn't dealt with properly, it breaks fellowship with God and breaks fellowship with each other. This is why James says, "Confess your sins one to another that you may be healed." We are a confessional people. We confess to one another. We don't hide sin; we get that out into the light and we expose it because we just declared, "I believe in the forgiveness of sins." We sang it in almost every song we sang this morning. I believe in the forgiveness of sins.

We then have fellowship with God and fellowship with one another. ***...and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*** The idea in this text... I'm speaking specifically to a Christian right now.

Walking in darkness means to live a sinful life.

A few years ago, I received a call late at night. This was 12 to 13 years ago. We had our phone on our bedside. How many of you remember when the phone was connected to the wall and by the bedside? How many of you remember when you got late night phone calls and you had to get up and go into the kitchen? How many of you never had late night phone calls because you didn't have a phone? How many want to get back to those days? I can tell you from experience, from 21 years of pastoring, that a late-night phone call only means one of two things. Someone is in the hospital or they have gone to be with the Lord or they've done something terrible. I can usually tell by the emotion in the voice because I've heard it enough.

To me, it's like a parent. Parents get very good at understanding the cries of their children. I love when we're at our house with friends or new friends and we're sitting across the table from each other and

our kids are playing in another room and one of their children lets out a scream. When the parents don't flinch, that's a parent saying, "Oh that scream is just for attention." Raise your hand if you know what I'm talking about. They're not hurt. But then there is another scream, there's another cry that causes that parent to jump up and immediately run into the other room; they know something serious is going on. Now, there are some parents in here that don't know the difference between the crying and we call you an overprotective parent. You don't need to run into the room every time your kid screams. Okay, so that's, again, keeping us to two services. We're just staying at two services.

This night, the phone rang and it was a childhood friend. I recognized his voice and I recognized his tone. He was sobbing so uncontrollably, I couldn't make out one word he was saying. I'm going to call my friend Matt. I said, "Matt, what's going on?" He just could not collect himself. I knew nobody was hurt; I just got to that point. I said, "Matt, what did you do? What happened?"

I guess earlier that day, the authorities broke down his door and confiscated all of his technology and he was being accused of selling his daughter online for sex. He said, "It's not true! It's not true! But, I'm with the wrong crowd." He's in another state. He said, "I don't know what to do!" I'm not arrested or anything, but they took it all and said they would be back in contact with me."

I could just tell he was at a bad place. I said, "Hey, I want you to come down to Branson." I remember picking him up at 4:00 or 5:00 in the morning at the Greyhound Station in Springfield and we went to IHOP. We sat down at IHOP and I go, "I need you to tell me what's going on." I could just tell he wasn't going to share because we both grew up in a similar environment where living in the darkness was encouraged.

Maybe you grew up in a similar church, but some of you grew up in a church where, "If I were to confess of that, they would no longer speak to me." "If they knew the sin that I was really dealing with, they would want nothing to do with me."

I knew that was going to be our first hurdle. I looked right at my friend and said, "I love you. There's really nothing you can say right now that will cause me to go, 'You're outside of God's forgiveness; there's no saving you.' There's nothing in me that's going to do that." He just couldn't believe it. He wouldn't receive it.

Let me pause here... May we always be a church where whatever is confessed... Because if we say we believe in the forgiveness of sins, whatever is confessed, we are a safe place for that to happen. Some of you are in a marriage right now, as we start talking about confessing sins, where you're like, *We're not safe people*. Some of you need to listen today from the perspective of *Am I willing that my children, that my spouse can share with me something and my first response won't be shock?* As parents, we've learned this skill. It's called freaking out on the inside and responding with what we said we believe. I believe in the forgiveness of sins. If God can forgive you, why can't I? This is about fellowship with Him and then fellowship with each other.

We brought my friend down here and I put him in a condo. He tried to take his life. I took him to a professional counselor because what he needed was way beyond what I'm qualified to give. I dropped

him off at, in my opinion at the time, what was one of our best counselors in this area who dealt with all sorts of sexual addiction and chemical abuse and all of that. I had a dentist appointment that day and I dropped my friend off and I went to the dental appointment. I barely got sat down in the chair when I got a phone call from this counselor saying, "You need to come get your friend and take him to the emergency room; there's nothing I'll be able to do for him."

I took him to the emergency room and he went through a treatment program in Joplin. After that, he said, "I'm just going to go back to my family." He was talking about his extended family. He was an adult at the time; he was in his 30s, almost 40s.

I said, "This is my fear for you. I don't want you to go back to them. They're part of the reason why you are in this mess." You have to take 100% personal responsibility for your sin, but it's like many in here with residential treatment programs will tell you, the struggle is helping and teaching and leading someone for a year and then sending them right back into the same insane environment.

He goes, "Well, so and so says I can come and be with him for a while."

So and so was another childhood friend and I'm going clean this up for you what I said to him. I said, "Heck NO!" I cleaned that up for you because I got pretty forceful on that one. I go, "He's in worse shape than you are. You don't need to go live with him."

A year later... He couldn't receive any help. He stayed here at Woodland Hills for a little bit, but I got a letter from him in the mail. He says, *"Hi Ted, I hope this letter finds you and your family doing well. I want to first apologize for not typing this out on a computer, but I recently decided not to use a computer for an undetermined amount of time."* Praise our father in heaven. *"I want all temptation gone from my life."*

If I can encourage you with this message, the simple application for some of you as you drive over the Taneycomo bridge today is to roll down your window and throw your phone in the lake. That's a great solution for many of you in here today. Some of you are like, "But, she won't have my new number." That's the point. You need that contact list gone. You need your history gone. You need the websites that you visit gone. And throw it in the lake. Make sure there's not a boat or anything down there below it, but toss the thing. Go home and get your laptops and bring them down over by The Landing. Throw them out into Taneycomo or tie a rope around them and use them for a boat anchor, whatever you need to do.

What is it that you keep returning to? This is what James talks about in James 1. By your evil desire, when tempted, you're drawn away and you're drawn into this sin and then sin, when it is fully developed, ends in physical death for many, spiritual death for others. Good for you, you got rid of it.

I love watching movies about presidents because I love watching the secret service. I don't know why I'm so into this, but... Do you know why the secret service can jump in front of a bullet? A movie I saw lately, the Marine one; there are helicopters and the president is in one of them and the three of them are doing the shuffle in sky and a stinger missile comes at it.

This may be too much information, but stick with me. The one goes down and the one with the president is left. They are out of flares to confuse the stinger missile and the one pilot goes, "Moving into sacrifice position." He just said it with a calm voice. Do you know why he's able to put his helicopter in front of the other helicopter. It's because he made the decision to do that a long time ago. They made that decision way back there so they don't make those big decisions in the moment, in the situation.

Dr. David Jeremiah, I love his illustration when he says, "You don't decide about your purity in the backseat of the car." You make that decision way back there so when you find yourself there, you're just now acting upon the decision that you made. You may think that's an old illustration. Let me make it current. You don't decide about your purity during your Netflix and chill. You decide before you ever press play. Before the buffering even begins on your movie, you've decided you ain't getting none tonight. If your hand is finding its way over... It ain't gonna happen; that's a decision you make. Don't wait. Young people, decisions are so important in what we're talking about.

I should really just read the letter rather than teaching through it. He says, *"I want to thank you for the kindness you showed me during my deepest struggles. You reached out to me and you did not judge me, which brings me to the second reason why I am writing. When we went to breakfast, you told me something I could not believe or even comprehend at that time. You told me that no matter what I have done, you would not reject me or turn away from me. I could not accept that or believe that. After all, my entire life I was surrounded by just the opposite of that."* The opposite he's talking about is the church. *"While there with you, all I wanted to do was die. I would tell myself to live, but my body could only shake. My mind was discouraged and filled with shame and guilt. Ted, I've always felt bad because I was unwilling to trust what you said to me to be true. I was not honest with you or myself, which is something I have to really work on and that is being honest. The truth is, I fell harder than anyone knows. I was involved with things I fear no one can ever forgive. I started with porn, but then fell into prostitution and anonymous sexual encounters with people from the internet. My fears of rejection over the taboo lines I crossed scare me. My new pastor, who is also a dear friend, has accepted me despite these encounters, but I am not sure others will and I doubt my family will."*

Let me tell you, there's nothing he said in this letter that is outside the forgiveness that comes to us because of Jesus' death and resurrection. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that raised my friend Matt. When he fell before a holy God and admitted "I am a sinner. I am retched, I am a worm. There's nothing I can do or bring to you. I rely fully and wholly on the finished work of Jesus Christ."

May we always be a church... And if I can add to that, may you always be a family, may you always be a spouse that can offer the same forgiveness that has been shown to you because the forgiveness that we show other people isn't based on their actions and what they are able to perform back to us. We love because he first loved us. We forgive because we have been forgiven. Forgive, as in God you have been forgiven through Christ Jesus. We're not outside of it.

If you've been in church for a while, you know The Romans Road... If this is your first time in church in a long time... I always love saying that because that was in our church. On Wednesday nights, we would

ask people, “Raise your hand if this is your first time or your first time in a long time.” We actually said, “Raise your hand if your brand new or if you’ve been backslidden for a couple months or years.” We actually asked people and people would raise their hand.

Romans 3: 23 – ***for all have sinned...*** Level playing field. All of us have sinned. We’ve had people attend this church – the key word here is we’ve ***had*** people attend this church – who have said they have reached a level where sin is no longer an issue for them. When they say that to me, you know me; I try to hold it in. I try to keep reverend-like. But, I look right at them and I go, “I’ve got to be honest with you, I think you’re still dealing with one and it’s kind of the root of all the others.” ***...and fall short of the glory of God.*** The “fall short of the glory of God” idea is this: there is nothing you possess in you, there’s nothing you have to offer, to reach and to meet God’s righteous standards. That’s true of every single person in here.

Romans 5: 12 says, ***Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man...*** That one man being Adam. ***...and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.*** This is the sin nature you and I have inherited. We were conceived in iniquity.

Scripture goes on to say in Romans 5, ***17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness...*** This is justification. You’re declared righteous because of Jesus, not because of cleaning up your act or refusing a sinful life; it’s Jesus that does that. ***...reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!***

Romans 6 – ***23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*** The idea here... The phrase *eternal life* is used 42 times in the New Testament. Eleven of those times, it’s talking about the life that begins now. You can fully enjoy a relationship with Christ now. That’s one of the eleven times it’s referring to. Often times, when we see *eternal life*, we think it’s about something that’s going to happen down the road. “When I die or the Lord returns, that begins eternal life.” Eternal life here is in Christ Jesus our Lord and it’s immediate. It’s in this moment, you can fully enjoy fellowship with your heavenly Father because of Jesus.

Scripture goes on to say it’s not just the death of Jesus, but we also have to think about the resurrection of Jesus. 1 Corinthians 15 – ***17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile...*** It’s useless, it’s empty. ***...you are still in your sins.***

To make an even more concise statement of the Creed, we believe that Jesus died and rose again. Because of that, our sins are forgiven. So, the question, follower of Jesus:

What do you do when confronted with your sin?

Let me give you three ways that are not good ways and then one way we all should respond when sin surfaces in our life. I was going to put a three-point list up here of all the different sins and have you pick one as we go through this, but I’m just going to trust what we declared last week. I’m just going to trust the Holy Spirit at work in your life. I’m going to trust him right now to call out what it is you’re

dealing with. Greed, envy, gossip, porn, gluttony, drunkenness... What is it? Take a moment just to think about that because here's what we do when that sin, when the Holy Spirit calls that sin out in our lives.

Deny

The first thing we do is straight from the evil one. We deny it. Satan wants you to think clearly that you set the rules. And not only you set the rules, but whatever God said, he's going to say the opposite. He's going to want you to believe the opposite. He's going to say, "God said, 'Don't eat from that tree or you will die.'" Satan said, **4 "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened...** You will be enlightened, you will be illumined, you will have new ideas about it.

Satan says, "God's ways are old ways, God's ways are way back there, but you have eyes to see new truth." Remember, we talked about this a couple of weeks ago. If you're ever reading your Bible and discover something brand new that 2000 years of church history has not discovered, you're probably way wrong. You've got to stop looking for new truth and just settle on the truth that we have and be obedient followers of our Lord and Savior. **...and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**" "Now you get to set the rules, you get to determine right and wrong. You get to determine good and evil; good, evil, right, wrong, that's up to you."

Scripture says this in Proverbs 16: **25 There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.** And, right now, the road you are on may be romantic feelings. And if it feels so good, it can't be wrong. It is. And we've seen it enough and we can share story after story. It'll lead to death. Listen, my friend didn't wake up one morning and decide to meet someone online for sex. It just doesn't work that way. It's a progression.

Neural chemical tolerance, we know this for alcoholics. Neural chemical tolerance... The reason an alcoholic no longer gets drunk on one beer is because his brain has adjusted to the chemical that's in it. So, he has to keep increasing it and keep increasing it. For me, when I meet with someone... I met with another friend who has been with six different women. When I hear his story, he didn't just wake up one morning and start calling people. It started in his house, in the darkness, with the computer open, and led him to this double life for the past few decades. There is a way that appears right, but in the end, it leads to death.

According to James, we've got to make decisions about temptation long before you're in the situation when you're being tempted because it will give birth to sin and death.

Blame

The next thing we do after denying is we blame. Is this true of our culture or what? "It ain't my fault." "Do you know what's been done to me?" "Ted, I said and did this, but do you know what she did to me?" "Do you know what he did to me?" I've met with couples who it's like, "It's time for me to get even." The solution to your spouse's affair is not to go out and have one of your own.

We had a pastor who fell a few years ago and he put out a public statement. When I read the statement, I was like, *Wow. He should have someone read this stuff before he sends it out.* He was at a large church. He replaced a very prominent pastor, but he said... When someone is confessing their sin and when someone is seeking an apology, I'm always looking for that 100% personal responsibility for their sin. His statement said, "After I found out about my wife's affair, I sought comfort in the arms of another woman." He should have left that whole line out and just said, "I sinned." Confess that. Don't be blaming. Don't be pointing fingers.

Judgment is about to be pronounced onto Adam, the one man. ***12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me..."*** In one quick little statement, he blames the woman and God. "I would have been fine without her, but you gave her to me"

In two weeks, we're doing a two-part series on marriage called *Reignite*. If you've been at our church over the last ten years, you know we spend six and a half years taking the second Sunday of every month and talking about marriage. We called them *TwoIgnite Sundays*. We're going to do a *Relignite* with two parts of a message because of what I've been dealing with in regard to couples from our church, as I've asked the Lord to give me fresh and new... Again, I feel like there's nothing left to be said on marriage. I was just reminded that sometimes you don't need new and fresh, you need to repeat the old. I've had these moments the last few weeks, as a pastor, to go we've got to address that again, we've got to lead out on that again because of the poor decisions people are making as they choose sin over fellowship with the Lord.

.” ***...she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.***” Genesis 3 Stop pointing the finger when the Holy Spirit calls the sin forward in your life. It's not about denying, it's not about blaming.

Conceal

We love to conceal our sin. Proverbs 28: 3 says, ***Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.***

In Psalm 32, David... Most scholars generally accept this would have been one of his Psalms. It's a wisdom Psalm, but it's one of repentance and he's speaking of his repentance after he was confronted by the Profit Nathan for his affair with Bathsheba. He said, ***1 Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven...*** *Blessed* there is saying as you see in Psalm 1, it's to be happy. I've brought my sin into the light; it's been forgiven. ***...whose sins are covered.*** By the blood of Jesus. ***2 Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.*** ***3 When I kept silent...*** The phrase here of 'When I kept silent' is speaking of a stubborn, resistance to speak truthfully. "I'm not going to say anything and I hope it just goes away." "I'm not going to say anything and I hope the guilt just fades." "I'm not going to say anything and maybe I don't have to deal with the consequence."

In Proverbs, we read this big idea. You live a life of addiction to alcohol, you live a life with the adulterous woman. You'll end your years with your flesh rotted, you're bones wasted away and you'll end with a moan. This is a father talking to his son, trying to prevent this in his life. ***...my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.***

4 For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

We have this issue right now on the outside of our house. We have these two terrorists; one is called an opossum and the other is called an armadillo. The opossum is eating our chickens; we're down to two chickens. Then, I walked out... This is a couple of weeks ago. The holes... I'm not exaggerating when I think maybe 1,500 holes in our front and back yard. And they are deep. They say they just go after them, grab them, get out and go after the next one.

So, I've got this new little song I put together that I sing now with my family every time as we pull into the driveway at night. It simply goes like this: "Armadillo dead by morning; I'll kill his wife and children too..." No wait a second; that's too much because we have animal rights people in here. How many of you would kill both? Welcome to Bass Pro Community Church, we're glad you're here. But, there are some saying, "No way, I did the right thing. I used the live trap and I caught them and I'm releasing them a few doors down at the neighbor's house to let them deal with it."

But I set up a trap and I caught them. I caught an opossum. Man, are they ugly. God, I know you made them and know there is a purpose and we'll figure it out one day, but it was hissing. And as I walked out with Corynn... I always like life lessons with my kids. I'm cocking the gun behind my back and walking out to the live trap. I look and there are babies crawling all over her. Aww, yeah, watch this because this is going to really keep us at two services for a very long time. How many of you would have done her in? I even hate to ask this question because we have people here from California that will never be back because the east and west coast ain't agreeing with that.

Corynn looks at me and goes, "You're going to let her go!"

I said, "And release her and those eight potential terrorists with her? No way!"

I opened it and let her scurry on off. Oh hush. Yeah, and are you going to bring eggs to my house from here on out, Martha? No compassion for the chickens.

I have to share that story because I need to say something to the congregation at Woodland Hills because you need chastising on this. Many of you have told me, "You don't tell your wife." That was your answer for me. "Catch the animals at night, but don't let Amy know what you're doing." You're on a slippery slope, my friend.

I remember when I was at a men's event one time, standing in the back with another speaker and there was a speaker on stage. He was fired up and running. I know at men's events we talk a lot about accountability, but he made this statement, which I think was absolutely ridiculous and so did my friend next to me. He's talking to thousands of people. He said, "Guys, let's just admit it; there are some things we can't say to our wives, but we can say to each other." I couldn't believe he said that. He had just announced to all those guys to keep stuff from their wives?

My wife goes to the first service and I've got to tell you something. One of the reasons we have a great marriage is because we choose not to live in the darkness. One of the reasons we have a great marriage

is all of my technology is an open book. Honestly, I use my technology 10% of the time and my family uses it 90% of the time. It's fully open to them. If you have a spouse right now that when you reach for their phone and they panic, you're heading down some pretty rough roads. Their hiding a phone number from you that they don't want you to see or there's a text message they don't want you to see or they don't want you to get into the history. We have a rule in our house. History is never deleted. If it's ever deleted, we will throw all our technology into Taneycomo. I don't keep things from her.

Concealing is choosing to live in the darkness. One of the things about my friend's letter that strikes me is when a community doesn't believe in the forgiveness of sins, people start hiding, start holding it in. We don't want that. We want you to know confess it that you may be healed in your relationships with your wife and your children, with your husband and your children, with your mom and your dad and with your heavenly Father.

Confess

We don't want to conceal it; we want to confess it. This is the choice. We are a confessing people.

Maybe you come from a church or a background that says the only way to confess sin is to go meet with another person. We believe clearly the scripture teaches there is but one mediator between God and man and it is the person of Jesus Christ. You can settle this right now.

Many people are coming from a Roman Catholic background that want to meet with me to confess their sins. We don't have that going on around here. You can take it straight to the Lord who sits at the right hand of the Father and is making an intercession for you at this very moment.

Continuing in Psalm 32. ***5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."*** The idea here is I'm now in restored fellowship with you. I have restored fellowship with my heavenly Father. ***And you forgave the guilt of my sin.***

To end with 1 John, where we started, ***8 If we claim to be without sin...*** The idea here is we don't even have a sin nature. If we claim that, ***...we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins...*** Again, we're speaking here of sanctification; we're not speaking of justification. Follower of Jesus, born-again Christian, if we confess our sins, ***...he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.***

So, here's what we believe. **We believe when you confess your sin, you are forgiven immediately,** And all God's people said... Amen; **fully,** and all God's people said... Amen; **and unconditionally,** and all God's people said... Amen.

Some people have a very hard time with that statement because you've never experienced that from a community of believers or you've never experienced that from a spouse or you've never experienced that from a parent and you're like, *Our relationship is so conditional.*

A friend of mine called me after being in all these affairs and his wife fully forgave him and is restoring the relationship with him. He would call me years later, frustrated because she doesn't trust him. I'm like, "Bro, I don't trust you either. You lived a lie for 30 years, but rest in the fact that you're forgiven and now the trust is what you're building back. There's a difference between the two."

Know that with your heavenly Father your sins are cast as far as the east is from the west. You are forgiven and you are to walk in that.

Father, it is in the name of Jesus that I pray right now for the one sitting next to someone they have deeply offended, deeply wounded with their words and with their actions. I pray for the marriage right now that they really don't know what's going on and the what's going on is one or both are living in the darkness. I pray for couples today to have boldness and to have conversations where they sit down and they're safe with one another, they forgive one another of whatever is confessed, and they begin walking and living in the light.

For the son or daughter who feels like "If I tell my mom or dad what I'm dealing with, what I'm struggling with, they will pounce on me," may Mom and Dad be the safe place today for their children to come and confess their sins.

I pray right now that the Holy Spirit of God is calling people by name and convicting believers in Christ Jesus of their sinful lifestyle. I pray that they are finding the freedom and forgiveness that is only available because of the death and resurrection of Jesus and that they would rest in knowing that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that will raise their lifeless soul.

For the one who has never trusted Jesus as Savior, I pray that today they would call out on the name of the Lord and take themselves off the throne of their lives, no longer shaking their fist at you, saying "I'll live how I want to live, I'll do what I want to do," but they will confess before you that they are sinners and they will receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. By faith alone in Christ alone.

Continue to work in hearts even as we sing and it's in the name of Jesus that we pray.