

**September 10, 2017**  
**Series: The Creed**  
**Part 6: I Believe in the Forgiveness of Sins**  
Ted Cunningham

1. In Romans 3:23, Paul says “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” John, in his first letter to the church, says we can’t fellowship with God if we “walk in darkness,” but if we walk in God’s light, we can fellowship with God, and the blood of his son “purifies us from all sin.”

- Does this mean some in the church John was writing were living a lifestyle of sin?
- Does that still happen among Christians in the church today?
- What is an example of “walking in darkness” or a “lifestyle” of sin?
- What are the rewards of “walking in the light,” that is believing and acknowledging God’s way is best for us and following Jesus and growing to be like him? (This is what the term “sanctification” means.)

2. John also talks about the supremacy of love in his letters: “We should love one another” (I John 3:11). “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers” (I John 3:16). It appears that loving others is an integral part of “walking in the light.”

- How is Ted’s desire, along with other Christian leaders in the community, to help those in need, many of whom “walk in darkness,” a picture of what it is to “walk in the light”?
- Do you think we are “missing the mark,” or “hitting the wrong mark” if we don’t care about those in need?
- Do you think we’re ever guilty of “rolling our eyes” at or giving up on or simply not caring about those in need?
- What keeps us from helping those in need?

3. Romans 6:23 says, “The wages of sin is death. How is that figuratively as well as literally true?”

4. Ted says there are four things we can do or four ways we can react when we’re confronted with sin—three bad ways and one good. What are they? (**Deny, Blame, Conceal are the bad ways. Confess is the good way to deal with sin.**)

5. How did Ted define confession? (**Finally agreeing with God about your sin.**)

6. Is your home a safe place when someone has done wrong? Are you a safe person for anyone confessing his or her sins?

7. Have you ever known the relief of being forgiven? Have you forgiven someone who needed forgiving? Who is hard for you to forgive? Does God’s example of merciful and unconditional forgiveness encourage you when you need forgiveness or need to forgive?

8. We ended the service with the song “Amazing Grace.” It has been said that it is the most recognized and beloved hymn in the world. Why do you think people love it?