

**Skegness Community Church - Weekly Bible Study 2025**  
**52 passages of Scripture that every believer should know**

**Week 22 - TRUE CONFESSION**

**1 John 1: 9**

**“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness”.**

In this verse John is driving home to our hearts one of the real secrets of maintaining fellowship with Christ, and that is the forgiveness of sins. It is God's desire to send away our sins from us. He has provided a way, and this is the issue at hand in 1 John 1:9. Here we discover how to get our sins sent away so that, as the Psalmist said, they may be separated from us “as far as the east is from the west” and remembered no more (Psalm 103:12).

**FORGIVENESS IS CONDITIONAL “If we confess our sins”**

Many of God's promises are conditional on certain requirements to be met by His children. The forgiveness talked about in 1 John 1:9 all hinges on the “Big If”: “If we confess our sins.” So we are immediately confronted with the reality that the forgiveness of our sins is conditional upon the confession of our sins. Sin is not some little vice we can laugh off. It is not something we can excuse by saying everyone is doing it. It is not some sort of mistake that we can minimise by trying to convince ourselves that it is not as bad as the sins many others commit. Sin is so serious that it necessitated the cross. Often our own guilt is God's way of saying, “You have sinned.” Confession then is our way of saying, “I agree with You, Lord. I have sinned

**FORGIVENESS IS CONFESSIONAL “confess”**

As we have seen above, confession is agreeing with God about our sin. We say, “Oh, that is not worry; it is simply concern.” We say, “That is not anger; it is righteous indignation.” We say, “That is not lust. Just an appreciative glance.” But confession does not say those things. Confession agrees with God about our sin. What we may camouflage as concern, God calls the sin of worry. What we may refer to as righteous indignation, God who knows our hearts, calls it the sin of anger. What we may try to say is just an admiring glance, God calls the sin of lust in our heart. Confession gets open and honest with God, and there is no forgiveness without it. Confession agrees with God on the matter. It does not say, “*If* I have sinned.” It confesses, “I have sinned.” The good news is that Jesus Christ died on the cross bearing our sins in His own body and taking the punishment for them all. Forgiveness is free to all ... but it is conditional and confessional.

**FORGIVENESS IS CONTINUAL “If we confess our sins”**

Note carefully it is our *sins* that at issue here and not our *sin nature*. God deals with our sin in 1 John 1:7 saying, “But if we walk in the light; as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.” Sin is singular here because the verse refers to our sin nature that Christ dealt with on the cross. There are important distinctions between the root (sin) and the fruit (sins). First John 1:9 deals with our sins - which we are to continually confess when we are made aware of them through conviction in our hearts. Our *sin* was dealt with on Calvary. When we were converted to Christ, we did not have to confess all our *sins*. Who of us could remember through all the years a fraction of them? It is our sin that is dealt with in our relationship with God, and that relationship cannot be broken. It is our “sins” that come into play regarding our ongoing fellowship with Him. True confession leads to true forgiveness!

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As you memorise this verse, meditate on the wonderful way God has made for us to live a life free from the sins of guilt that shackle so many. He dealt with our *sin* once and for all on the cross. He now deals with our *sins* by cleansing us in continual confession. As God brings issues to you mind during times of devotion and meditation, agree with Him and live in the solid promise that is yours in 1 John 1:9: **“he is faithful and just and will forgive.”**