

Deeper: Change for the frustrated, exhausted, and those on the brink

October 15, 2023

1 John 1:5-10 (Chapter 6 of *Deeper*)



On Sunday we reflected on the importance of honesty in our Christian life. As Dane Ortlund puts it, you are restricting your growth if you do not move through life doing the painful, humiliating, liberating work of cheerfully bringing your failures out from the darkness of secrecy into the light of acknowledgement before a Christian brother or sister.

Getting Started

On Sunday Toran talked about the game changer for Christ's ongoing transformation in his life was a pursuit of honesty. What's been your "game changer"? Has it been honesty? Something else?

Read

1 John 1:5-10 (Chapter 6 of *Deeper*)

Digging Deeper

- On Sunday, Toran considered the objection that many of us feel when considering the importance of confession—the clock starts ticking for us to fix our sin. Does this resonate with you? Has this fear prevented you from being honest in the past?
- In chapter 6 of *Deeper* (p.121-122), Dane Ortlund gives an honest description of how many of us feel. Read this quote on the next page. Has this series helped bring your subjective feeling of defilement into line with the objective reality of your cleansing with Christ?
- When we confess to a brother or sister, our honesty fuels not only being forgiven, but feeling forgiven. Do you believe this? Have you experienced this before?
- Is there anything that you need to confess and haven't since hearing Sunday's message? If so, take the chance to do that with another few members in small group. Maybe split into pairs or smaller groups (by gender for mixed groups).

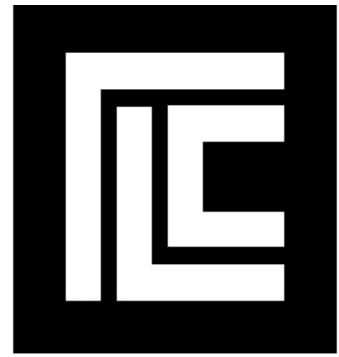


THE LOCAL CHURCH

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“Many of us feel irredeemably dirty. We know God loves us, and we believe we really are justified. We know heaven awaits us just around the next bend around the road, but in the meantime we can’t get out of the oppressive sense of dirtiness. Whether from abuse at the hand of others or our own sinful stupidities, we feel dirty. Beneath our sharp theology we feel disgusting. Our smiles and well presented external appearance are at odds with what we find to be our deepest visceral experience.

The gospel answers that. If you are in Christ, heaven has bathed you. You have been rinsed clean and are now ‘un-dirty-able’. It doesn’t matter what you feel. That doesn’t define you. Jesus was defiled to free you from your defiled status and your defiled feelings. That doesn’t mean we will never have feelings of defilement, but it does mean that one aspect of growing in Christ, is bringing ours objective feelings of defilement into line with that objective, decisive, invincible, true-for-all-time-and-eternity cleansing in the blood of Christ. Notice that the text says we are ‘cleansed from all sin’ (1 John 1:7). This is a comprehensive treatment.”



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