

## THE CREED

## Part 10: The Forgiveness of Sins

### INTRO

- Tell about a fun or unique Christmas (or other holiday) tradition that your family practiced?

### READ

Romans 7:15-25

### REFLECT

Continuing our study of the Apostles' Creed:  
I believe in...the forgiveness of sins.

First, we'll consider sin, then our need for forgiveness.

#### 1. The IDEA of sin

*Qu: What are common misconceptions inside and outside the church with the idea of sin?*

#### 2. The DENIAL of sin

We hear others say or might have even thought ourselves, "I'm basically a good person."

*Qu: Do we weigh out actions or attitudes and based on that decide we are "basically" good?*

#### 3. The ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of sin

But I need something *more!* For if I know the law but still can't keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, **I obviously need help!** I realize that I don't have what it takes. **I can will it, but I can't do it.** I decide to do good, but I don't *really* do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time.  
— Romans 7:17-20 (MSG)

Paul was quick to admit, that though he knew God's law, what was good and what was evil, right or wrong, there was a war within him. He needed help!

*Qu: Why is it difficult to admit your own faults and failures?*

#### 4. The FORGIVENESS of sin

Is it possible to go through life without the weight of regret, a day we wish we could live over again, words we would take back, a voice we failed to listen to? Our failure to do what is right and to refrain from sin reminds us of our need for forgiveness.

### THE HOLY SPIRIT

The forgiveness of sins begins with an act of the Holy Spirit:

"And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment".  
—John 16:8

By the Spirit's conviction we understand as David the Psalmist wrote:

"Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight." — Ps 51:4

We grasp our need for forgiveness:

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared\*\*. — Ps 130:3-4

Paul said:

"Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

*Qu: As Paul honestly wrote about at his own sin and failure, he concluded with thanksgiving and worship? How does acknowledgement of your sin take you to a place of gratitude?*

### RESPOND& PRAY

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. — James 5:16

Pray for one another, for a deeper understanding, of you own sin, a greater honesty regarding you sin, and, in light of this, the humility to confess to one another and pray for one another.