

# Table Discussion

John: *“I think our leaders should openly confess their sins. Our pastor, routinely will share his struggles, his sin, from the pulpit. I appreciate his vulnerability. I can identify with his struggle. He will, after sharing, point us back to Christ and His work on the cross. I just think a pastor who does not share his own struggle with sin keeps a distance from the people. When he doesn’t share his struggle, the people (or flock) don’t feel “safe” or confident to share their struggles.”*

Bill: *“I hear you. Look, I know the pastor sins, but I don’t want to hear about his sins from the pulpit. I want to hear about God, His work on the cross for us. A pastor who shares his sins or struggles diverts attention away from God, unto himself. I know you may be able to identify with him, but it ends up being more about him than God.”*

# Psalm 51 Background

- This is the fourth of the seven penitential psalms (Pss 6; 32; 38; 51; 102; 130; 143)
- These are psalms of lament.
- The context is David's sin with Bathsheba, murder of Uriah (2 Sa 11:1–12:25), and the prophet Nathan's subsequent rebuke of David.

# Psalm 51 Outline

- A. Prayer for Individual Restoration (vv. 1–2)
- B. Confession and Contrition (vv. 3–6)
- C. Prayer for Restoration (vv. 7–12)
- D. Thanksgiving (vv. 13–17)
- E. Prayer for National Restoration (vv. 18–19)

# Table Discussion

vv. 1-2

This is the first thing David says, “Have mercy on me.” How do you hear that? He says it “right out of the gate.” Imagine you are listening to someone and that is first thing they say. If you know the circumstances behind their confession, how do you tend to react to or receive what they are saying?

*God is faithful and just to forgive every sin and cleanse from all unrighteousness because of Christ's atonement alone. In other words, the believer does not confess in order to get something. What he seeks he already has.*

– Jim Eliff

# Table Discussion

v. 5

“[Original sin] does not refer to Adam’s first sin, but to the guilt and tendency to sin with which we are born. It is “original” in that it comes from Adam, and it is also original in that we have it from the beginning of our existence as persons, but it is still our sin, not Adam’s sin, that is meant.” - Wayne Grudem and Jeff Purswell

This is not necessarily a “teaching” about original sin, but why do you think David communicating this?

# Table Discussion

v. 11

At Perimeter, we believe the Bible teaches that for believers, their salvation is secure in Jesus Christ. If cast from God's presence is losing one's salvation, we do not believe that can happen. We are secure in Christ. We cannot lose the Holy Spirit. Reading v. How then do you reconcile this?

# Table Discussion

*v. 17*

1. What is God “looking for” in his people?
2. What does a “broken spirit” look like?
3. Why might this be “difficult” for you? Why is it challenging for you to have a broken and contrite heart?

# Table Discussion

vv. 18-19

1. Why do you think this is included here? Why does it conclude with this?
2. We live in a broader culture, in which people can tend to think individualistically? Why is it important we consider how sin affects the community of faith?

# A Few Thoughts

- Confession is not about drawing attention to oneself.
- Confession does not mean one avoids negative consequences.
- Confession is not about shaming or embarrassing others.
  
- Confession and relationship?

# Big Idea

1. What is the mercy of God dependent on? *The steadfast love shown in the person and work of Jesus Christ.*
2. What is David to “do?” *Humble himself*
3. Who is the focus on? Who does the changing here? *God*