



Church of Christ

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204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

Heart to Heart...

People like to blame others when they do wrong. Adam and Eve did it in the garden. They sinned and when they were called into account by God, excuses and blame began to fly (Gen. 3). We hear it all the time. It's our parents fault in the way they raised me, our environment, our culture, our peers, our doubts and on and on. This is where all our trouble lies! By the time we have finished explaining why we did wrong, we simply had no choice but to sin and sin is shrugged at because we let go of any responsibility. It will ruin people eternally!

John writes, "...and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin." (I John 1:7) We know what the blood of Christ is for. It's our cleansing, our purification so we can stay in fellowship with a holy God. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:9) Sin is taken seriously by God and Christ. Each and every person will be held accountable for their sins and there is no explaining it away. ***There is no forgiveness of sin when there is no confession!!!*** To blame anything or anyone other than ourselves for our own wrong doing is a tragedy. God will not forgive the unconfessed sinner! We must be willing to confess our sins in the presence of God the Almighty. ***To excuse our sinfulness is nothing more than making light of sin.*** Jesus died and dealt with our sins, all of them: the sins of our speech, attitudes, the flesh and the mind, our secret sins, our exposed sins, our horrible outrages of sins, unexpected sins, deliberate sins and our arrogant standing in sins. Marriages are rotten to the bone because of sin. Parents train their children in the ways of sin, to think little of sin, when they excuse away their own sinfulness. To shrug off our sinfulness with the attitude it's another's fault will only get you condemned in the eyes of the Lord, leaving you separated from God.

Sin sickens the Lord. That day when Peter preached loud and clear in Acts 2, some of those were pierced to the heart as they stood guilty and condemned before God. They didn't blame anyone or point fingers. They didn't blame the Pharisees who plotted to destroy Jesus. They didn't blame Pilate for their sinfulness. They didn't even blame Judas, His own apostle. They simply asked, "*Brethren, what shall we do?*" They repented, and were baptized into the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of every act of sin they committed (Acts 2:37-38). With repentance comes confession. When there is no repentance, there will be no confession! The end result will be death, and that will be your choice. Jesus wants us to be saved and will only defend the confessed sinner. The next time you sin, ask yourself who committed the act? It still stands, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom. 6:23) Think about it!!!

Brent