

5th December 2018

Prayer and Study Group Week Five

Talk about Sin – Lesson 7

1 John 1:8-9

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Why is it that it is often easier for us to confess our sins to God than to a brother? God is holy and sinless, He is a just judge of evil and the enemy of all disobedience. But a brother is sinful as we are. He knows from his own experience the dark night of secret sin. Why should we not find it easier to go to a brother than to the holy God?

Ed Welch

Wise conversations talk about sin. Though we might prefer to avoid this, we know that we all struggle with sin, and we all need each other’s help.

The hard circumstances of life feel like our most pressing problem. Our struggles with faith and following Christ in obedience are even more important.

How to talk about sin – Read Ed Welch article

Our goal is to contribute to a community in which it is increasingly natural to talk about sin and ask each other for help.

Discussion

1. Has anyone ever spoken to you about your sin in a helpful way? How did he/she do that? Has anyone ever spoken to you in a way that was unhelpful? Why was it unhelpful?
2. Do you have concerns about speaking to others about sin struggles?
3. How do you hope to grow in this area?

Personal Reflection

Identify one area of sin and see how this sin is personal. Can you name one? Do you confess it? Do you end in thanks? Are you okay speaking about it publicly? Identifying sin promotes humility and patience as we speak with others. If there is secret sin, whom will you speak to about it?