

TRANSFORMATION

"we are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory." 2 Cor 3:18

CONFESSION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

This is the final study in our series on the theme of Transformation. Take a few moments to recall some of the topics we have covered: Self-Understanding, Journaling, Meditation, Bible reading, Service, Community, Submission, Praise, and Study.

Which of these have had the biggest impact on you?
How have you grown or changed through them?

Overall, this has been a fairly challenging series. And yet, this final study has the potential to challenge as much as any of the others as we consider the role of confession and accountability in our lives as Christians. This may not be for everyone; but have you ever given a regular and honest account of your choices, priorities and temptations to a godly and wise Christian companion?

If any members of your group *have* been involved in an accountability friendship such as this, ask them to share what they can of the experience with your group.

Usually, this will involve a willingness to be vulnerable with another Christian, mutual trust, honest self-reflection and confession, giving and receiving correction and input, and prayer for one another.

FAQ:

Frequently Asked Questions in an 'accountability friendship':

What was your biggest joy this week?

What has God shown you from his word today?

Has your thought life been pure?

What has been your greatest temptation this week? How did you respond?

Have you just lied to me or made things sound better than they really are?

BIBLE STUDY: READ 1 JOHN 1:1-2:2

1. This passage is written in the plural: "We have seen,.. We have touched,.. We know that,.. We have fellowship with one another..." What does the passage suggest is the bedrock of this shared experience? When have you experienced this kind of 'common bond'?
2. How would you describe 'walking in the light' (1:7) in simple layman's terms?
3. We are, perhaps, familiar with the idea of confessing our sins to God (1:9). What do you think it really means to 'confess' sins? What does the passage indicate that this process of confession includes?
4. When it comes to our own sins, how can self-deception be a problem (1:8, 10)?
5. When it comes to confessing our sins, what role does Jesus take? What ought we do?

6. Read James 5:16; Galatians 6:1-2 and Hebrews 3:13. What role might other Christians take in this process of confession?
7. What might be some of the benefits and pitfalls of allowing another person to 'listen in' to your specific prayers of confession of sins to God?
8. Who do you talk to about your spiritual life? Are you comfortable sharing these kinds of things with another person? Why/why not?
9. Are you sufficiently trustworthy for someone to share their struggles with? What do you think it takes to be such a person?

FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION (5-10 MINS)

Take a few minutes alone to consider the following:

10. Which is the sin you work hardest to hide? Talk to God about why this is so.
11. What do you think might happen if you shared that with a trusted friend? That is, how would it effect you?
12. If you wanted to cultivate an accountability friendship where you could be vulnerable with another Christian, be honest in self-reflection and confession, give and receive correction and input, and pray for one another—with whom might you do that?

PRAYER TIME

As a group, pray for one another, particularly giving thanks for the ways that God has been at work in your lives during this series.

*Proverbs 27:6
Wounds from a
friend can be
trusted, but an
enemy multiplies
kisses.*