

## THE CLEANED UP LIFE

### Psalm 51:10-13

**Introduction:** As great a man as David was, he still "messed" up and did some very "dumb" things. Nathan the prophet (in the text) informed David of God's impending judgment against him because of his adulterous affair with Bathsheba and the ultimate murder of her husband, Uriah. What a messed up life.

There's no question that how Christians live has a great deal to do with the effectiveness of their witness. The lost will more readily listen if one "measures" up to Christ's standards for Christians. It's been said that one can "live a life" as a witness for the Lord without ever saying anything. Then there are some who say that one must "speak" about Jesus to be a witness. Think about it, they can both be right. A person can live right and speak for the Lord as well.

Which wing of an airplane is more important? If either one dropped off what would happen to the airplane? So it is with witnessing. There's two parts, which is more important, living the right life or speaking about Jesus? It takes BOTH, a right life and a voice.

What was it that got the disciples, the apostles in trouble with the Jews and Romans? What was it that got Paul in prison and finally killed? Was it living a good life or speaking out for Jesus Christ? We must be both, living and speaking witnesses, however, like David, we mess up and get into trouble now and then and our life and witness is tarnished. How can we get our lives cleaned up? How can we be in fellowship with God with nothing between us?

### I. WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE HOLINESS OF GOD

1. *1 John 1:5* - The Roman gods lied, cheated and treated mankind unjustly and John cried out "...God is not like that, God is perfect, without flaw and is holy..." *1 Peter 1:16*

### II. WE MUST BE HONEST ABOUT OURSELF

1. *1 John 1:6*
2. If we say all is well between us and God, yet at the same time living sinfully, we are lying.
3. Most of us can identify with the young man who rented a motel room while the electricity was off and he slept well, and upon awaking the next morning when it was daylight, he could then see the room and it was filthy. The light revealed what he could not see in the darkness.
4. We may seem to be pretty good people in the eyes of ourselves and others, but in the light of God's Word and His holiness, our sinfulness and flaws show clearly.
5. Who we really are, what and where we are really going is revealed in the light of God's holiness.
6. To have our life cleaned up, we must be honest with ourself.

### III. WE MUST CONFESS OUR SIN

1. Sin in the Christian's life does not break the RELATIONSHIP with God, but it does affect the FELLOWSHIP between the Christian and God.
2. The solution to sin in one's life is CONFESSION - *1 John 1:9*
3. Think, what does the average Christian do when he/she sins? Is there feelings of guilt? Does he/she blame somebody else? Does he/she try to hide it? What about trying to justify it or compare it with the sins of somebody else? Maybe he/she just ignores it and forgets all about it?
4. What does God want us to do about our sins, Christian?
  - God wants us to recognize our sin, feel about it as He does, admit that we did it, regret it, and turn from it.
5. Forgiveness is real! If God is done with it, so should we be. We're not to hang on to it, drag it around or let it drag us down. *Psalms 103:12*
6. To be an effective witness for the Lord, confess your sins, receive cleansing by faith, forget that sin and get on with your witnessing by both living a Godly life and speaking about Jesus.

### CONCLUSION:

1. We will never be perfect while here in our bodies.
2. God knows none of us will ever be all that we could be for He knows our sinful nature.
3. We can be imperfect, yet still be a witness for the Lord Jesus.
4. God will still bless us in spite of our imperfections.
5. Confessing our sins daily will help keep us in fellowship with God and cause us to be more effective in witnessing for the Lord.
6. Take an inventory - take a look at your sins. How do you feel about them? Do you see them as God does? Or perhaps you like some of them and don't want to get rid of them?
7. Christian, take your sins to Jesus in all sincerity and He will cleanse and forgive.
8. Do you want a cleaned up life?