



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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What can wash away your sins?

Scripture: Revelation 1:5: And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.

The cleansing of sin is attributed directly to the blood of Jesus and God's grace. Christ demonstrated His great love by setting us free from our sins through His death on the cross ("washed us from our sins in His own blood"), guaranteeing us a place in His Kingdom, and making us priests to administer God's love to others. **The fact that the all-powerful God has offered eternal life to you is nothing short of spectacular.**

How does Jesus' blood cleanse us from every sin? In Old Testament times, believers symbolically transferred their sins to an animal, which they then sacrificed (Leviticus 4). The animal died in their place to pay for their sin and to allow them to continue living in God's favor. God graciously forgave them because of their faith in Him and because they obeyed His commandments concerning the sacrifice. Those sacrifices anticipated the day when Christ would completely remove sin. Real cleansing from sin came with Jesus, the "Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Sin, by its very nature, brings death—that is a fact as certain as the law of gravity. Jesus did not die for His own sins; He had none. Instead, by a transaction we may never fully understand, He died for the sins of the world. When we commit our life to Christ and thus identify ourselves with Him, His death becomes ours. He has paid the penalty for our sins; His blood has cleansed us. Just as He rose from the grave, we rise to a new life of fellowship with Him (Romans 6:4).

First John 1:1-10, the false teachers not only denied that sin breaks our fellowship with God and that they had a sinful nature, but they also denied that their conduct involved any sin at all. This is a lie. They forgot one basic truth: All people are sinners by nature and by practice. At conversion all our sins are forgiven—past, present, and future. Yet even after we become Christians, we still sin and must confess. This kind of confession is not to gain God's acceptance, but to remove the barrier to fellowship that our sin has put between us and Him. It is difficult, however, for many people to admit their faults and shortcomings, even to God. It takes humility and honesty to recognize our weaknesses, and most of us would rather pretend we are strong. But we need not fear revealing our sins to God—He knows them already. He will not push us away, no matter what we've done. Instead, He will draw us to Himself.

Confession is supposed to free us to enjoy fellowship with Christ. It should ease our consciences and lighten our cares. We don't need to fear that He will cast us out if we don't keep our slate perfectly clean. Of course we want to continue to confess our sins, but not because we think failure to do so will make us lose our salvation. Our relationship with Christ is secure. Instead, we confess so we can enjoy maximum fellowship and joy with Him.

True confession also involves a commitment not to continue in sin. We are not genuinely confessing our sins before God if we plan to commit the sin again and just want temporary forgiveness. We must pray for strength to defeat the temptation the next time it appears. **If God has forgiven us for our sins because of Christ's death, why must we confess our sins?** In admitting our sins and receiving Christ's cleansing, we are: (1) agreeing with God that our sin truly was sin and that we are willing to turn from it, (2) ensuring that we don't conceal our sins from Him and consequently from ourselves, and (3) recognizing our tendency to sin and relying on His power to overcome it.

When you feel lonely and separated from God, remember that God does not abandon you—it is your sin that cuts you off from Him. The only sure cure for this kind of loneliness is to restore a meaningful relationship with God by confessing your sin, obeying His instructions, and communicating regularly with Him (Isaiah 1:4-9). God saved us not by our own good deeds or righteous efforts, but entirely out of His mercy. It happens through a spiritual rebirth—described as the washing of regeneration and the daily renewal brought by the Holy Ghost.

What can wash away your sin? Nothing But the Blood of Jesus!