

## 1 John 1:9

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

How many of you reading today's verse, love this verse; so much so that you may have it on a coffee mug, or have it framed hanging in your office or house, or would be quick to post it on Social Media? These are all good things, because they help us to remember God's word, and not only that, but share it with others. Yet how many times, even though we know this verse forward and backwards, do we not really do what it says?

You may be thinking, "Well, I do what it says, because I confess my sins to God, and go beyond that and tell God why I did it." Well, what you have now done, is you have added to God's word, doing what He said to do, but you have also added your own rules in there as well.

If you think about it, it's the same thing that happened in the Garden of Eden 6,000 years ago with Eve, where she not only used what God said at the reason of why she was not to eat from *the tree of knowledge of good and evil*, but she also added in her own (Or possibly what Adam may have said to her) rules as well.

Here is what God said about *the tree of knowledge of good and evil*:

† **Genesis 2:16-17** *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

And here is what Eve said:

† **Genesis 3:3** *but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'*

Notice that Eve added, "*nor shall you touch it*" and even worse she said, and I quote "**God has said**" But if you read what God said, He never said don't touch it, so Eve was in a sense putting words into God's mouth that He never said, and because of Eve adding to God's word, she was willing to compromise and be disobedient to God's word.

So even though we shake our heads and say, "*Bad Eve, God never said don't touch it, shame on you for adding to God's word.*" Yet how many add to God's word when it says to "**confess our sins**", yet we feel like we need to add to God's word by giving excuses for our sins.

God is all knowing, and He knows why you did what you did, He is not shocked, nor will He ever say, “Wow, I didn’t know that’s why you sinned. That explains it. Here’s a get out of jail for free card, pass go and collect \$200 dollars.” I know that sounds crazy, but God does not want or need our excuses for having disobedient hearts, rather God wants our repentant hearts, because excuses is not repentance, it’s trying to get out of repenting, because some how we think our excuses will trump our sin, which they never will.

† **Romans 7:15-25** *For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.*