



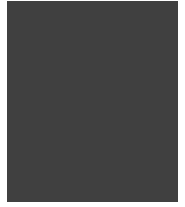
DON'T COME TO CHURCH IF...*

SERMON NOTES

Week 1 September 21, 2025

“...You Can't Say 'I'm Sorry'”

Psalms 103:7-12; Matthew 5:21, 23-24



I. Introduction

- A. Sin is... things that break God's _____.
- B. Our Christian faith says that _____ has sinned.
- C. In our sinful state, people can struggle saying “_____.”

II. Response to Sin Spectrum

- A. We can be in _____ to our sin.
- B. We can be aware of sin and try to _____ it.
- C. Other times, we think that only _____ can judge us.

III. Church is for You

- A. A confessing Christian accepts they and others _____.
- B. A trait of a sinner saved by grace is _____ with themselves and others.
- C. One of the biggest misconceptions about coming to church: you have to have it
“_____.”

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *September 22-27, 2025*

INTRODUCTION

From young children we are taught that when we do something wrong, we should say “I’m sorry” and seek forgiveness. Such activity does not stop at childhood and becomes all the more important as we seek to help build the Kingdom of God. Despite our best efforts, we all can fall short, do something wrong, and find ourselves needing forgiveness from both God and those around us. By putting aside shame, pride, and a myriad of other emotions, we can boldly move toward reconciliation. May the following daily studies help you in the various aspects of this ongoing pursuit in our Christian faith.

Monday: Luke 5:32

Straight out of the gate, we can go astray if we believe that Jesus came only for the righteous. This misconception can keep us feeling ostracized when we don’t have to be. How does Jesus’ coming for the sinner and saint change the invitation to faith?

Tuesday: Colossians 3:13

Beyond the initial acceptance of God’s free gift of grace, our faith calls us to mirror Christ’s love and life. Reflect on the sins God has forgiven you of. How do you actively offer such forgiveness to your friends, family, and people in your life?

Wednesday: Luke 19:8

Beyond just saying we are sorry, repentance calls us to change our ways as well. In this verse’s example, Zacchaeus paid back those he wronged and then some. In what ways can you show those you’ve asked forgiveness of that you are no longer living in the same manner?

Thursday: “Grace Greater than Our Sin” UMH#365 (<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CEL1997/344>)

This hymn boldly proclaims that despite the gravity of our sins, God’s grace is greater still. Through reflection we can deeply consider our walk of faith, the sins that still tempt us, and where we can grow in Christ. What verse most speaks to you today? Why do you think that is?

Friday: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Forgiving and being forgiven brings about a new start; to mend broken relationships and an opportunity to build something new. Within the new life found in Jesus, what are you most eager to start this week? What do you still need to ask for forgiveness for? What things are you still holding onto that you need to release to God?

MOVING FORWARD

Even if we followed this guide to the letter, none of us will have graduated from a need to forgive and be forgiven. However, the humility this creates helps us make a church environment where others can explore their wrestling with sin and acceptance of God’s grace. This week, can you commit to a greater welcome of sinners and saints in Christian love?

*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) heart B) everyone, C) I’m sorry. IIA) denial, B) hide, C) God.
IIIA) sin, B) honesty, C) all together.*