

February

Shady Shores Baptist Church

2018

From The Pastor's Heart . . .

Three preachers are on a fishing trip. The Methodist says, "Hey guys, since we're not catching anything, why don't we pass the time by sharing our secret sins?" The Pentecostal says, "I think that would be great!" but the Baptist says, "I don't know...I think that's a bad idea." After a half an hour of coaxing from the Methodist and Pentecostal, the Baptist finally agrees on the condition that he can go last. The Methodist begins, "I know you guys won't believe this, but every Friday night I go to the bar in the next town and get plastered!" The other two gasp and sit quietly. After about 5 minutes the Pentecostal says, "Ok. My turn. For the last 6 months, I have been having an affair with another woman" The other two gasp and sit quietly. An hour passes, and the Methodist and Pentecostal get impatient. "Brother, we told our secret sins; it's only fair that you share yours too." The Baptist minister hangs his head, exhales deeply and says, "OK. You've got me. Here it is—

I am the worst gossip in the town, and I can't wait to get back home!"

Gary Larson, the artist responsible for the Far Side cartoons that used to appear in the Sunday comics had a knack for making us realize the obvious. In one particular cartoon there were a group of scientists gathered around another scientist. The one in the middle was normal looking, but the others were grotesque; huge eyes, hideous noses, monstrous lips, elongated faces. They were trying to get the normal looking guy to take a drink out of a steaming jar. The caption said "Laboratory peer pressure."

If people could see how ugly sin is and how much it distorts them they would stay away from it too. If we could see how much it would distort those around us as well we would flee even faster. It's easy to fool those around us. We can put fronts on to trick people we see every day. It can be even easier to do that at church. Someone you usually don't see but once a week. But outside appearances don't tell the true story from the inside.

Maybe you are hiding a secret sin inside, covering it up so that no one can know you are struggling. That sin is eating away at you shredding your heart. That secret sin is a burden weighing heavy on your back. It may cause you to stumble and hurt the reputation of God. Don't cover that secret sin up anymore. Hiding your needs from God is ignoring the only one who can really help. God welcomes your honest prayer and wants you to express your true feelings to Him. Bring it to God, remove that cherished sin from your heart. Take the burden off of your back. Don't allow this secret sin to stay hidden and cause you to stumble.

"Thou hast placed our iniquities before Thee, Our secret sins in the light of Thy presence." (Psalm 90:8 NAS77) "So teach us to number our days, That we may present to Thee a heart of wisdom." (Psalm 90:12 NAS77)

See you Sunday: Looking Up, Reaching Out, Going Forward.

From My Heart To Yours,

Bro. Bob

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