



# Welcome to West Side!

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

April 24, 2022

## Freedom Through Confession

Article by Tim Tripp

Growing up with younger brothers, it was a constant annoyance that they felt the need to report to my parents anything I had done wrong. I would no more than think about stepping out of line before one of them had gone to the nearest parent and embellished my aberrant behavior. Admittedly, it is probably at least partially responsible for the fact that I am a good guy now because I lived in fear of exposure every time I messed up. My younger siblings couldn't wait to confess my sins.

If only confessing our own sins were as easy as confessing those of others. Confessing others' sins does not carry with it the threat of exposure or of shame and guilt that speaking our own sins does. However, in the right context with the right people I've found that confession does not add those burdens to me. In fact, just the opposite happens. Confession actually takes those things away.

In a discussion of spiritual disciplines, confession rarely is numbered among them. We talk often of prayer, Bible reading and quiet time. Less often but still in the mix are disciplines of service, giving and church attendance. Confession however, rarely makes the cut. Yet if the purpose of discipline is to catalyze spiritual growth, confession could hardly be left off.

Before the beginning of Jesus' ministry, as people were attending the ministry of John the Baptist, the Bible tells us that before they were baptized, they confessed their sins (Mark 1:5). James (5:16) encouraged his audience to confess their sins so that they might be healed. John proposed to the audience of 1 John that "*if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*" (1 Jn 1:9). In the early days of Christianity, confession was a regular part of being a follower of Jesus.

We have gotten away from that. In the Churches of Christ, our avenue of confession has been to go forward during the invitation and confess your sins before a group of gawking onlookers. That may have seemed appealing at some point but it is really not today. The place for confession is in a relationship with a Christian brother or sister who really cares for you and is willing to walk with you through whatever struggle you may be having. It may be the elders or a minister. It may be an accountability partner or a sponsor in Celebrate Recovery or some other recovery focused group. The important thing is that it is done in love and in confidentiality between you and another person who can go with you before the Lord and acknowledge both your sin and his forgiveness.

Hidden sin is like planting thorny weeds in a flower garden. They grow until they take the place over and turn beauty into brokenness. Sin confessed is sin in retreat.

The only way to defeat a sin struggle is through confession and prayer. Satan will argue with you every step of the way when you go to confess because when you confess you loosen his grip and take his victory.

Make room for confession in your spiritual walk. Claim the freedom it brings. Find someone with whom you can partner in prayer and confession to make you the best you can be before God.

## ONLINE CONNECT CARD

We would love to connect with you! Please fill out our Online Connect Card at...

[westsidear.org/connect](http://westsidear.org/connect)



Last Week:  
Sunday Class & Conversation - 113  
Worship - 334  
Giving - \$11,608  
Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 87

## Prayer Requests

Billy Hunter had triple bypass open heart surgery on Friday. Please keep him in your prayers for a full and rapid recovery.

We extend our sympathy to Brenda Branneky and family in the recent loss of her great niece. This family has encountered a lot of loss in a short amount of time. Please continue to pray for strength and comfort and peace.

## Welcome!

We are excited to announce that David and Karalene Jordan have placed membership with us here at West Side!

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## National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 5th, is the National Day of Prayer.

West Side will participate again this year offering "Drive-Thru prayer on the Main Street parking lot from 8am-6pm. Volunteers needed in 1 hour increments for holding signs as well as praying with participants throughout the day. Please sign the list in the lobby, or you can sign up online at the link provided on West Side Friends and Family facebook page. Thank you West Side!

Save the Date for

**VBS**

**July 11-15th**

**ages 1yr-5th grade**

Volunteer/ helper sign up forms will be sent out soon.

For information like this and more visit [www.westsidear.org](http://www.westsidear.org) & subscribe