

JULY 19, 2026

We Believe... GOOD NEWS!

Sin Doesn't Get the Last Word!



SERMON RESOURCE



OUR LITURGY

*The Lord is here. His Spirit is with us.
And where the Spirit of the Lord is -
There is freedom!*

CONNECT

— 10 MINUTES

- When you hear the word sin, what is the first thought, feeling, or image that comes to mind?
- Have you tended to think about sin as a list of bad behaviours, a scorecard, or something people can rank and compare?
- How have your past experiences with church or Christianity shaped the way you respond to a conversation on sin?

REVIEW

— 30 MINUTES

Alliance Statement of Faith:

“Humankind, originally created in the image and likeness of God, fell through disobedience, incurring thereby both physical and spiritual death. All people are born with a sinful nature, are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ. The destiny of the impenitent and unbelieving is existence forever in conscious torment, but that of the believer is everlasting joy and bliss.”

Sin is deeper than our behaviour

Paul David Tripp writes, *“The DNA of sin is selfishness”*

Read: Romans 5:12, 18–19; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:1–5

- Where do you recognize this inward pull toward yourself in your desires, fears, relationships, ambitions, or need for control?
- Where are you most tempted to build life on your own terms rather than trusting God?
- Why is greater effort or determination unable to solve the deepest problem of sin?

We no longer have to be our own saviour

Read: 1 John 2:2

- How does the depth of our need make the grace of Jesus even more significant?
- What stands out to you about God making us alive while we were still spiritually dead?

- Your hope is not that you will become someone who no longer needs grace. Your hope is that Jesus is the kind of Saviour who gives grace to people who do.
 - How might believing this change the way you respond when you fail?

Conviction invites us into light

Read: Psalm 51:1–12; Romans 8:1

- What does David acknowledge about himself in Psalm 51? What does he believe about the character of God?
- Consider the difference:
 - Conviction is specific, honest, and redemptive. It invites us into the light.
 - Condemnation is crushing, vague, and hopeless. It drives us further into hiding.
- Which voice are you more accustomed to listening to?
 - How can Romans 8:1 help you discern the difference?

Confession is coming home

Read: 1 John 1:8–9; John 8:34–36

- What do the passages reveal about God's response when we confess our sin?
- How would your approach to confession change if you truly believed it was one of the safest things you could do in the presence of God?
- Confession is not grovelling before a reluctant God. It is agreeing with God in the presence of mercy. We do not confess so that God will begin to love us. In Christ, we confess because we already are loved.
 - What would it mean for you to believe that your past, your pattern, your shame, or your worst moment does not get the final word?

APPLICATION

— 30 MINUTES

Stop Hiding

Invite the Holy Spirit to bring one real thing into the light. This is not an invitation to shame yourself, make dramatic promises, or prove that you can change. It is an invitation to become honest in the presence of mercy.

Spend a few quiet moments reflecting:

- Where am I returning to myself instead of trusting God?
- What have I been minimizing, excusing, or keeping hidden?
- What might Jesus be inviting me to bring into the light?

After confessing, slowly **read** 1 John 1:9 and Romans 8:1.

Do not rush away from grace. Receive the forgiveness and cleansing Jesus has already made available.

- Is there a trusted Christian friend, pastor, or leader with whom you need to share what God is bringing into the light?

PRAY TOGETHER

— 10 MINUTES

Pray this historic prayer of confession together:

Almighty and most merciful Father.

we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.

We have offended against your holy laws.

We have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.

But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Spare those who confess their faults.

Restore those who are penitent,

according to your promises declared to us

In Christ Jesus our Lord.

And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen

GOING DEEPER

— 10 MINUTES

Read Psalm 51 each day this week. As you read notice:

- What does David confess?
- What does David believe about God?
- What does David ask God to do?

At the end of each day, take a few minutes to practice:

- **Give thanks.** Where did you notice God's goodness?
- **Become aware.** Where did your life curve inward toward yourself?
- **Confess.** Name what happened honestly before God.
- **Receive grace.** Read Romans 8:1 or 1 John 1:9.
- **Respond.** What is one small step of trust or obedience God is inviting you to take tomorrow?