

# The Importance of Openness

**James 5:16 (CSB) — Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.**

---

## 1. Humans are good at hiding — Genesis 3:1-13

- Vs 7 — Adam & Eve hide themselves with insufficient coverings
  - Vs 8 — Adam & Eve hide themselves behind the trees
  - Vs 9 — God asks: “Where are you?”
    - All questions we should all be asking ourselves.
- 

## 2. Hiding Sin From God

1. Reactions from us when we sin
    1. Further sin and despair — 2 Samuel 11
    2. A weight of guilt — Psalm 32:3-4
    3. Denial of God and His ability to see — Eze. 8:7-13
  2. Reactions from God when we sin
    1. Consequences — Gen. 3:14-19; 2 Samuel 12:10-14
    2. Forgiveness, grace, and providing sufficient covering — Gen. 3:21; Psalm 51
      1. God could have killed them, started over. But he did not. He forgave and showed grace.
      2. Romans 5:6-8 — Similarly to Adam and Eve, God chose to send his son while we were still sinners. God covers us through Jesus, He provides sufficient covering.
- 

## 3. Hiding Sin from our Brethren

- Reactions of sin among brethren
    1. Toleration — 1 Cor. 5
    2. Too much heavy handedness — 2 Cor. 2:5-11; Luke 15:11ff
    3. Pharisee approach to church — Matt. 23:25-28
      - We all come in with our “church faces” on.
      - “I won’t talk about my problems if you won’t talk about yours!”
    4. Openness and Accountability — James 5:16; Gal. 6:1-2; Heb. 3:13
- 

## 4. Reasons we Hide Sin

1. Fear of how others view me = Pride
2. Fear of Gossip
3. Fear of being able to overcome — 1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Jn. 4:4

Chase Byers  
502-370-8622  
cdbyers33@yahoo.com  
14435 Refreshing Garden Ln  
Fishers, IN 46038