

“What to do When We Mess Up”

Psalm 51

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When I mess up...

1. Acknowledge my sin rather than **justify** it or cover it up.

2 Samuel 11:1-27

“You’ll never understand sin’s sleight of hand until you acknowledge that the DNA of sin is deception. Now, what this means personally is that as sinners we are all very committed and gifted self-swindlers. I say all the time to people that no one is more influential in their own lives than they themselves are because no one talks to them more than they themselves do. We’re all too skilled at looking at our own wrong and seeing good. We’re all much better at seeing the sin, weakness, and failure of others than we are our own. We’re all very good at being intolerant of others of the very things that we willingly tolerate in ourselves. The bottom line is that sin causes us not to hear or see ourselves with accuracy. And we not only tend to be blind, but to compound matters, we also tend to be blind to our blindness.”

Paul David Tripp, *Whiter Than Snow: Meditations on Sin and Mercy*,
Crossway Books, Wheaton, IL, 2008, p. 32.

2. **Confess** my sin to God.

Psalm 51; 2 Samuel 12:1-14

“The message of this Psalm is that the vilest offender among God’s people can appeal to God for forgiveness, for moral restoration, and for the resumption of a joyful life of fellowship and service, if he comes with a broken spirit and bases his appeal on God’s compassion and grace.”

John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary Old Testament*,
Victor Books, Wheaton, IL, 1985, p. 832.

3. Embrace God's forgiveness rooted in His character, grace, and Son.

Psalm 32:1-5; Romans 4:5-8; 1 John 1:7-10

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us."

1 John 1:7-10

"The content of the Bible is the worst of news (you are a sinner) and the best of news (God is willing to forgive.) It's only when you're ready to admit the worst that you then open yourself up to what's best. All of this means that you and I don't have to live in denial and avoidance. We don't have to play self-excusing logic games with ourselves. We don't have to give ourselves to systems of penance and self-atonement. We don't have to point the finger of blame at others. We don't have to perform our way into God's favor. No, we can come to him again and again just as we are, flawed, broken, and unclean, and know that he'll never turn away anyone who comes to him and says, 'I have sinned; won't you in your grace forgive?'"

Paul David Tripp, *Whiter Than Snow: Meditations on Sin and Mercy*,
Crossway Books, Wheaton, IL, 2008, p. 136.