

In 1 John 1.8-10, John the Apostle wrote:

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us! If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.”

1 John 1.8-10

No one is perfect. No one lives sin-free. You blow it. I blow it. And the church does, too. I’m sure that you (like me) have, on more than one occasion, had to make something right by apologizing. So why is it so rare to hear a church apologize? The truth is, an apology from the church should not “stand out.” It should not make the community sit up and take notice. But it does, precisely because that the church rarely does what it tells others to do.

In all sincerity, we want to change that. The church in America has a serious credibility problem. Those outside the church look at us and often don’t see anything that even remotely resembles Jesus. Instead they see judgment, hypocrisy, and very little compassion. They hear our words, but don’t see a lifestyle that aligns with those words.

The only way the community will ever believe our words is if our behavior backs it up. With the help of God, we want to become a community of believers that lives out its creed.

With this public apology, our foremost desire is to take responsibility for how we have failed in this area, because with 100% responsibility for our attitudes and behaviors comes 100% forgiveness. And secondly, in keeping with the spirit of repentance, our desire is to keep our eyes on Jesus and allow Him to keep us focused on His mission.

We’ve prepared this short piece to help you better understand our heart in all of this. We know that once this apology is published, our Springcreek members and attenders may be bombarded with questions. Hopefully, this fuller explanation will help you in connecting with those who have questions. In addition, feel free to direct others to the church website and phone line for any questions they may have.

God’s best to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Keith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor Keith Stewart