

Branded and Guilty
Psalm 51:1-13

The Bible confronts us with the reality of where we stand on our own before God: _____ as sinners and _____. Psalm 51 is a model for us to follow, the one effective _____ to this fact.

The first and foundational response to the fact that we are branded as guilty is _____. David admitted his moral failure toward a _____, but that paled in comparison to the fact that his failure was a sin against a _____.

David knew his only hope was God's _____. Fortunately, our God is a God of unfailing love and great compassion. So, our next response to being branded as guilty is to _____ and _____ God's offer of mercy. David somehow understood the merciful, forgiving nature of our God. Maybe he remembered how God proclaimed His name to Moses in Exod. 34: "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and _____, slow to _____, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, _____ iniquity and transgression and sin..."—that somehow pardon was in God's _____, His very _____, so he asked for it and took it. In the same way, we are offered pardon for sin in Jesus Christ. All that is left for us to have it is to _____ for it and _____ it.

Finally, in response to being branded and guilty, we invite God's transforming power to "create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me." For the power of indwelling sin to be _____, something has to change _____. The word translated "create" is only used of God in the Bible. Only the One who had the power to _____ has the power to _____, to create in us a clean heart and renew a right spirit within us.

Psalm 51 teaches us that, though guilt is _____ in the Christian message, it is not _____. In Christ, guilt is _____ from the guilty to the innocent, permanently _____, and the guilty one is _____ in the image of the Creator.