

A CHRISTIAN IS NOT PERFECT BUT FORGIVEN

We grieve over Linda Raper's departure from this life last Monday. We will miss her; her family and friends will miss her.

Linda never "put on airs." She was a "straight shooter" but did like to joke around. Inevitably, folks may have been hurt by her remarks from time to time. She was always willing to make things right. She often came forward to ask for our prayers. Her faith and sincere desire to repent and do right was an example for us.

We must admit that Christians are not perfect, just forgiven. John warns us not to have the attitude of some who thought they were spiritually superior and sinless.

John says in **1 John 1:8-10**: *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."*

We should be like Linda and never be too proud to confess our sins to God, and we must confess our sins to one another if we sin against one another (**James 5:16**). God promises to forgive us of the sins we confess and all other unrighteousness if we would bring a contrite heart to him and humbly confess our sins. He underscores that promise for emphasis by stating that God is *just and faithful* to forgive us if we confess.

Our humility in seeking and receiving forgiveness will help us to be humble in our efforts to reach others who are still lost. It will also help us to not be judgmental toward one another within the body of Christ. Only Jesus has this authority (**James 4:11-12**).