

## Followed by Filth



1 in 6 Americans move each year. 2 years is the average amount of time an American stays at his job. In 2004 the state of WI recorded 34,000 marriages & 17,000 divorces

There are many reasons why Americans move, change occupation and file for divorce. People claim, bad luck, mismanagement, bad economy, falling out of love as reasons for going in a different direction, walking away, going their separate ways. I have seen firsthand these excuses follow people around like Pigpen's dust cloud.

The cycle of sin, guilt, walk away, and start over is a filthy dust cloud following each of us around. We try to ignore our sins, hoping no one will see them. We hope there will be no consequences when our sins are spotted. When there is no escape from our sins, guilt and regret, we assume incorrectly that the problem is not ours so if we walk away it will be left behind. We blame others for the stench and filth in our life, but the problem all along

was our own sinful choices. That hideous cloud of filth that seems to magically appear in every job, in every relationship, in every town, is our own sins, our own guilt. Ignoring it will not make it go away. Blaming our filthy cloud on others will not make it go away. Starting over in a new place, a new relationship, a new job will only cover it for short time before it seeps through our new surroundings.

There is only one place to have our sinful filthy cloud lifted off of our own shoulders. John the Baptist pointed to the one place that each of our sinful, guilty, shameful lives of bad choices can be placed and forgotten forever. *"Look the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

On the shoulders of Jesus Christ he bears the filthy sin clouds of the world. God made him to be sin for us. On that cross he became all the laziness, drunkenness, selfishness of this world –your sins and mine. On Good Friday that gigantic filth cloud was buried once and for all with Jesus Christ. Confess your sins. Place your sins on Jesus Christ. Break the cycle of sin, guilt, regret, ignoring and walking away! Walk to the cross and place your filth on him. See him pay for your sins and bury them in the tomb. Walk away this time from your sins once and for all and start the cycle of forgiveness. With forgiveness we are a new people. We can and will overcome all things through Him who gives us strength. We can serve the Lord and each other with faithfulness and with love because He first loved us. We can live clean with forgiveness. We can handle the consequences of our sins. We can forgive those who have hurt us. We can love the unlovable as Christ loved us, filthy sinners.