

THE CREED

THE FIRST ARTICLE (PART 2)

SKIT

Characters: Older Brother, Younger Brother, Father

Setting: In the brothers' room, waiting for their father to get home.

FYI: OB—Older Brother, YB—Younger Brother (*Younger brother pacing nervously.*)

OB: Boy, are you going to get it when Dad gets home!

YB: I know. (*Pause*) I'm dead.

OB: I can't believe you did that. You knew you weren't supposed to leave the park, and when we came to pick you up . . . Do you know how upset Dad is? He just left the police station and is on his way home. You were really stupid!

YB: I know, I know! (*Pause*) I'm dead, really dead! I know.

OB: No, you don't know! You didn't hear him on the phone when I called him. I talked to him so I know. He was mad. I've never heard Dad like that before. I can only imagine what he's going to do to you.

YB: Yeah! You love it, don't you? You would love to see me grounded for life.

OB: Grounded? That would be getting it easy! He's going to kill you. Sit down, man! You're making me crazy.

YB: Why don't you just leave?

OB: Because I told Dad I would stay here with you to make sure you don't take off again.

YB: How much longer do you think he'll be? He should be home by now.

OB: He's probably taking time to figure out how severely he's going to punish you, and you should spend time figuring out how you're going to beg for forgiveness—not that you deserve it.

YB: Thanks a lot! I'll never do it again, okay? I'm sorry. I'm sorry! (*Pause and then talking to himself*) Whatever I get, I deserve it.

OB: What did you say? You deserve it? You bet you deserve whatever you're going to get for what you put this family through. (*Looking out the bedroom window*) Look. Dad's home. He's driving up the driveway now!

YB: (*Can't see around brother*) What does he look like? Let me see. Does he still look mad?

OB: He looks like he's been crying. I've never seen him like this.

YB: Okay. I'm ready. I'll go out there and meet him. (*Walking to door ready to open it, and father pushes through as if he was running and out of breath*)

Father: (*Embracing son*) Son!

YB: Dad! I'm, I'm . . .

Father: Son, not now. Just don't say anything. Let me stand here and look at you.

YB: Dad, I'm . . .

Father: Son, please. I'm just glad that you're okay.

OB: Wait! This isn't fair! Aren't you going to give it to him?

Father: (*Directed to the older brother*) And you, please excuse us. You may leave now. (*Older brother exits the room.*)

Father: We'll talk about the consequences of your actions at another time. Just know how thankful I am to God that you aren't lost anymore.

YB: Thanks, Dad. I'm glad I'm home.

DISCUSSION

Explain the term “unconditional love” as the father shares it with his wayward son in the story of the lost son and the forgiving father. Unconditional love is pure love, love that is not based on appearance, behavior, or willingness to change. Unconditional love is the kind of love that moved our heavenly Father to send His Son to die for us, even when we were still the enemies of God. Be sure students understand the seriousness of sin. Without Christ, sinners face eternal punishment. Nevertheless, those who have faith are free in Christ from the consequences of sin.

Since God's love is unconditional, why do followers of Christ want to keep from sinning? The love of God also works in us through the Means of Grace to desire to turn away from sin and to our God in loving obedience.