

## CONFESSION OF SINS

Text: 1 John 1:6-10

INTRO: God has made provision for the forgiveness of the sins Christians commit after becoming followers of Christ. That provision includes the confession of one's sins. Let us take note of some Bible principles involved in confession of sins.

### I. CONFESSION OF SIN IS PERSONAL.

A. "We all make mistakes" or "Nobody's perfect" is not a Scriptural confession of one's sins.

B. Note Bible examples:

1. King David: "For I acknowledge my transgressions, & my sin is ever before me" (Psalm 51:3).
2. The prodigal son, Luke 15:18, 21
3. The publican. Luke 18:13

### II. CONFESSION OF SIN IS DEFINITE.

Not "IF I have done anything..." A fellow who doesn't know whether he's sinned or not should try to find out. Confession of sin is definite. "I have sinned." (Psalm 51:4).

### III. CONFESSION OF SIN IS SPECIFIC.

A. Again, it involves more than saying, "We all make mistakes."

B. David prayed, "Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God" (Psalm 51:14).

C. We need to be specific: gossip, using profanity, etc.

### IV. CONFESSION IS HONEST, ABOVE BOARD.

A. No plea bargaining, reducing the charges.

B. Don't say, "I've hurt someone's feelings" if you mean you have slandered them.

B. Don't say "I may have exaggerated a little" or "I may have left a wrong impression" if you mean you have lied. All such lame confessions are an attempt to

whitewash & cover up your sin. Such is not really confession at all.

#### V. CONFESSION ADDRESSES THE ONE SINNED AGAINST. A.

Remember first that all sin is against God. 1 Cor. 8:12

Luke 15:18

B. When we become alienated from our fellow man by sinning against him, it is never properly dealt with until we confess our sin to them & ask their forgiveness. Matt. 5:23-24; James 5:16

C. Sins of a public nature need to be renounced in a public way. Some disciples in Ephesus were guilty of openly practicing sorcery. READ ACTS 19:18-20.

Illustrate: When a child makes a mistake at his desk, the teacher can bend over and whisper to him and correct that mistake between her and him alone. If he makes the same mistake on the blackboard in front of the whole class, it must be corrected before the whole class.

#### VI. SCRIPTURAL CONFESSION OF SINS LEADS TO A PLEA FOR FORGIVENESS.

A. A person may freely admit, even boast of his meanness, yet not confess sin in the Scriptural sense. Pharaoh, Exodus 5:2.

B. Scriptural confession of sin always comes from a heart seeking mercy and forgiveness, Luke 18:10. Psalm 51:1-2.

CONCLUSION: It has been said that "Confession is good for the soul." In fact, confession is essential for the soul, but it is hard on the pride. Pride will keep some of us out of heaven & land us in hell. If we need to confess sins, God grant us the wisdom, strength, and determination to do what is right in His eyes.

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Exton, PA, September 27, 1987  
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, January 24, 1993