



Die Young

Confession is the New Innocence

Proverbs 28:13-14; 1 John 1:9; James 5:16

Two Foundational Verses

1 John 1:9 ESV

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

James 5:16 ESV

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Confession is the act of admitting you were wrong. Confession is a dangerous thing to a life built on the goodness, rightness and excellence of self.

For most, this is the kind of confession that comes easiest for us.

I must confess, I was born at a very early age - Groucho Marx

Confession is required for salvation. We admit God is right and we are wrong.

Confession is designed to be specific rather than general.

What is the significance of our need to Confess to God?

Proverbs 28:13-14 ESV

Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy. Blessed is the one who fears the LORD always, but whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity.

Here is a beauty of our confession. We don't do it on our own? Christ Himself stands in the gap and makes up for what we could never do on our own.

Read 1 John 2:1-2 ESV

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Hosea 5:15 "I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek me."

Scripture is clear that we are meant to live in community. The Trinity itself (God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit) points to the beauty of community. Because of our need for community, it is important that we Confess to man (or one another). Confessing to one another brings about healing. (James 5:16)

How might only confessing to God and not to one another actually lend to our continued defeat in sin?

How might our confession of sin help others in their walk with Christ?

Confession of guilt - We have discussed good and bad guilt before in a previous sermon series.

- **How would you distinguish between godly and worldly guilt?**
- **Remember that godly guilt is always a result of sin in our lives. Repentance and confession are vital in our growth as believers.**

2 Corinthians 7:10 - "For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death."

Worldly guilt is the guilt you feel after you have confessed and repented and is evidence that you doubt that God can really forgive you so you allow that guilt to control you. This is actually a very prideful way to live thinking you are living humbly. It is amazing how we can fool ourselves at times.

As soon as guilt is felt is the best time to confess that guilt. In doing that the believer admits that He is Lord and submits one's life to God's authority.

- **How can you do this practically as you go through your day?**

Accepting confession

Colossians 3:13–14 ESV

bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Forgive because you have been forgiven. How can we position ourselves so that we can accept and extend forgiveness? Most of us expect to be forgiven but at times it is difficult to extend forgiveness. Because we have a strong sense of justice, extending forgiveness means that we relinquish our sense of justice to accept God's way of living.

John 8:15

Matthew 7:1-5

Romans 15:1

2 Samuel 12:13

Confession leads to death

Our confession of sin is an admittance that we can never be perfect and that the only perfect person to have ever lived or will ever live is Christ Himself. Our pride is a very toxic and deadly thing when it goes unchecked.

- **Confession leads to our death of living a sinful life.**
- **Confession also not only reveals the depth of our sin but God's unlimited righteousness.**

An old saying goes like this, Confession is good for the soul and bad for the reputation. (This is definitely a self-centered saying.) Confession is good for the soul and bad for sin. Confession is a great way to proclaim the righteousness and glory of God.

Take time to hear prayer requests and close in prayer.