



Confession of Sin

NT on Confessing Sins

- **Matthew 3:5-6** 5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him 6 and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.
- **Mark 1:5** Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

NT on Confessing Sins

- **Acts 19:18** And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds.
- **James 5:16** Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
- **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 What is Confession?

- To make known, to profess or acknowledge
- To speak the same thing, to assent, agree with
- David Lipscomb - “We are to confess our faults and turn from them, make them known and indicate our willingness and purpose to quit them. When a sin is well known, the thing is not to make it known, but to indicate or make known our purpose to quit the wrong.”

2 Who should confess sins?

- When the sin is publicly known and harms the reputation of the church.
- When the sin is known and harms the reputation of the individual Christian.
- When the sin is repented of, forgiveness is sought from God and those harmed by the sin.

3 To whom is it confessed?

- To the elders or preacher?
- James 5:16 “to one another”
- To God
- To the assembled church
- To those affected by the sin

Caution:

- Do not turn the front pew into a “confessional” to discuss personal or private sins
- If it is not widely known – keep it to yourself
- Matthew 18:15-17 does teach that we must confess our sins to the one against whom we have sinned.

4 What should be confessed?

- How specific should the confession be?
 - I have sinned.
 - I have stolen things.
 - I robbed a bank.
 - On July 3, 1991 I held up the State Bank with a .22 pistol. I got away with \$7,684.
- My view – Those that know – will forgive. Those that don't know, don't need to know.

5 Why do we kill our wounded?

- **Roy Lanier** - “One reason brethren hesitate to confess their faults to one another is that we do not know who we can trust to keep our secrets. If we bare our life to one man today, we may hear the story of our life from a dozen people tomorrow.”

6 Why confess sins?

- To let others know of my repentance
- To remove any hurt that it may have caused
- To seek their prayers for me to overcome the temptation to sin
- To seek their prayers for forgiveness

6 Why confess sins?

- The purpose of confession is NOT to provide fodder for gossips.
- The purpose is not to inform everyone of the sin.
- The purpose is to let others know that we are penitent and are making changes in our life.

6 Why confess sins?

- Guy Woods - “The scriptures clearly teach that every known sin, of what ever nature, must be confessed to God. Any sin, every sin, unrepented of, establishes a barrier between God and the individual rendering fellowship impossible.”

Conclusion

- Is there sin in your life?
- Is it publicly known?
- Have you repented and prayed for forgiveness from God?
- Confession informs the church that you have repented and are making changes in your life.