

# Confession: The Righteous response to Conviction

**Confession:** a formal statement admitting that one is guilty of a crime; an admission or acknowledgment that one has done something that one is ashamed or embarrassed about. A formal admission of one's sins with repentance and desire for absolution. To disclose one's faults.

## Confession is an Invitation

Matthew 3:6

Acts 19:18

Leviticus 5:5

Proverbs 28:13

Psalm 32:1-6

## The Way of Confession

I John 1:5-10

- Confession helps us be honest with ourselves. Blame-shifting gets exposed as we confess to personal responsibility.
- Confession gives voice to what the work of the Spirit is doing
- Hidden sin breaks fellowship with God and with others.
- Corporate worship invites confession (Lord's Prayer)—It is where and when we encounter a Holy God (and have a response like Isaiah 6)
- Should be specific—scripture and Spirit will be specific in conviction

James 5:13-20

- Make confession to someone with a measure of spiritual maturity/authority—someone who can make an appropriate response to what they have heard.
- Confession of sin should also be toward those we have sinned against.
- Confession breaks the power of sin's secrecy
- It should extend as far as the reach of our sin—address anyone involved. If known only to God—begin by confessing to Him. If sin affected another—confess to those who have suffered due to your sin. If your sin influenced a family/group/congregation/neighborhood/city—confession should be public.
- A culture of confession eliminates hypocrisy and wearing masks with one another.
- Confession should be a regular part of the Lord's Table
- The lack of confession can affect our health—Psalm 32
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "He who is alone with his sin is utterly alone."
- Acknowledge any pain you may have caused others. This leads to godly sorrow. It recognizes the cost your sin has caused to another. (Sin's impact)
- Be ready to accept the consequences of your confession:
  - Leviticus 6:1-5—restitution ( Numbers 5:6-7, Luke 19:8-9)
  - Luke 15:19—loss of position
  - Proverbs 18:19—offended one is not easily entreated
  - Romans 8:1—there is a difference between consequences and condemnation
- Be ready to alter your current behavior—Proverbs 28:13
- **For Those who Hear a Confession:**
- Inquire of the Lord—that you might respond on His behalf
- Don't try to imagine or visualize what you have heard
- If confession triggers—take the opportunity for your own response as quickly as possible.