

# Confession of sin to God

#12

What do you do to restore fellowship when you've hurt someone? The answer is "confess." Own-up to what you did wrong and take responsibility for your actions.

The bible makes it clear that we are to confess our wrongdoings to others here on earth. (James 5:16; Luke 17:4; Matthew 5:23-24)

Recall a time when you owned up to your wrongdoing of another person: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Let's now turn our focus to confession of our sins to God.

What is the reality of our situation? (Ecclesiastes 7:20) \_\_\_\_\_

Confession of sin in the Old Testament often comes in the context of the offering of sacrifices, with the priest acting as a mediator between man and God. Before Christ, under the Law given to Moses, however, it was only the priest who had direct access to God to request forgiveness of sins.

However, after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is our mediator now?

(1 Timothy 2:5) \_\_\_\_\_

What do 1 Peter 2:9 and Revelation 1:5-6 tell us about our current position with God as Christians? \_\_\_\_\_

The New Testament repeatedly teaches us that all Christians are priests and that Jesus is our High Priest. We can enter the Most Holy Place with confidence (see Hebrews 10:19-22). This was revolutionary and unheard of! We have direct access to God! If we sin against God, we are to approach Him directly, with Christ alongside us as our mediator.

## Results of Broken Fellowship with God

Sin does not change the reality of your adoption into God's family. It does, however, affect your relationship with God, just like it does within a family

### Read Psalm 32:1-7

List the results you find to having broken fellowship with God. \_\_\_\_\_

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### Read Psalm 66:17-20

List results of both broken and restored fellowship with God. \_\_\_\_\_

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These psalms are not exhaustive on the effects of being out of fellowship with God. There can also be feelings of fear, numbing of the heart, lack of confidence, desire to avoid fellowship, etc.

How do you feel whenever you hold onto sin without confessing it? \_\_\_\_\_

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What is the result of sin within your earthly family? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Restoring Fellowship

### Read 1 John 1:5-9

Now read only verse 5

What is light symbolic of in the Scripture? \_\_\_\_\_

What does it mean to walk in the light? \_\_\_\_\_

Perhaps the best way to think about walking in the light would be to live exposed to God's holy knowledge or to leave the shadows and bring our sin into the light. The Bible uses the word "confession" to describe this state.

Read only verses 6-7

Compare and contrast verse 6 with verse 7. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Read only verses 8-9

Compare and contrast verse 8 with verse 9. \_\_\_\_\_

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As you glance back over these parallel passages, it becomes apparent that John uses the term "walking in the light" to mean confession.

From verses 8-9, the Greek word for "confession" literally means "to say the same thing along with someone" or "to agree with someone." This sheds some interesting light on what is involved in confession:

1. We are agreeing with God that we have sinned. This stands in contrast to justifying or denying that what we did was wrong.

Can you think of a time you have justified or denied a sin? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. We are agreeing that Christ's sacrifice on the cross has paid for our sins. There is nothing that we can do within our own power to deserve forgiveness.
3. We are agreeing to turn from our sinful course and back to God. This is repentance.

John also emphasizes that God is "faithful and just." These two concepts are important. In confession, there is a component of faith. We are trusting that God is faithful to us as our Father and will forgive us. We are also trusting that God is just, that sin needs to be dealt with, and that Jesus dealt with it for us. When we beat ourselves up for sinning, we are not acting in faith, and, in fact, are further grieving God by not accepting the forgiveness provided by Christ.

### **Steps of Confession**

1. Agree it's a sin.
2. Agree it's forgiven.
3. Agree to turn from your sin and turn back to God.

Think about areas where you are tempted to sin.

Take some quiet time now to confess, using the three steps listed above.

**Memorize: 1 Timothy 2:5**