



Confession

This is the fourth in our series “Steps To Christ: How to be ready for Jesus to come.” Last week we talked about the gift repentance this week we’ll look at a closely related topic, Confession. As Achan found out confession is more than just saying “sorry” what you get caught (Joshua 7:20, 21, 25). So today we’ll notice some Bible truths about confession.

Don’t Hide Your Sins.

Proverbs 28:13—Achan’s problem was that he tried to hide his sin. It wasn’t until there was no way out that he finally owned up to what he’d done. He found the truth that Moses stated to be true, “You may be sure that your sin will find you out.” Numbers 32:23

“The conditions of obtaining mercy of God are simple and just and reasonable. The Lord does not require us to do some grievous thing in order that we may have the forgiveness of sin. We need not make long and wearisome pilgrimages, or perform painful penances, to comment our souls to the God of Heaven or to expiate [make amends for] our transgression; but he that confesseth and forsaketh his sin shall have mercy.” —*Steps To Christ* p. 23

Turn Away From Sin

Isaiah 1:16-18—Confession without a willingness to change doesn’t amount to much more than wasted words. “There must be decided changes in the life; everything offensive to God must be put away. This is the result of genuine sorrow for sin.”—*ibid* pp. 24, 25

Confess to the Person(s) Affected

James 5:16—“If you have given offense to your friend or neighbor, you are to acknowledge your wrong, and it is his duty freely to forgive you. Then you are to seek the forgiveness of God, because the brother you have wounded is the property of God, and in injuring him you sinned against his Creator and Redeemer.”—*ibid* p. 23

Confession Should be Heart Felt and Freely Expressed

Psalm 34:18—When we see the true nature of our sin and are truly sorry for it—not just its consequences—we will be brokenhearted. But it is when we are brokenhearted that God is best able to draw us close.

“Confession of sin, whether public or private, should be heartfelt and freely expressed. It is not to be urged from the sinner. It is not to be made in a flippant and careless way, or forced from those who have no realizing sense of the abhorrent character of sin. The confession that is the outpouring of the inmost soul finds its way to the God of infinite pity.”—*ibid* p.24

Confession is not Just Apologizing or Making Excuses.

Genesis 3:12, 13—Adam and Eve fell into the all too easy trap of trying to play the “Blame Game”. In effect they were blaming God for their sin. Self justification is not a Godly trait in fact the only One who could truly self justify himself, Jesus, took the load of other people’s sin.

Confession is Good News

1 John 1:9—“The humble and broken heart, subdued by genuine repentance, will appreciate something of the love of God and the cost of Calvary; and as a son confesses to a loving father, so will the truly penitent bring all his sins before God. And it is written, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9.”—*ibid* p. 26



The fourth step in order to have a relationship with God and be ready to meet Him is to openly acknowledge our sins and confess them to the persons affected and God being sure to turn away from them.