

## Christians Deal With Sin - Confession

Text : **Psalms 51: 1-17**

### INTRODUCTION :

**A. In our previous lesson we observed that God equipped us with a mechanism to alert us when we are going off the path that we have identified as the right way.**

1. That mechanism is the conscience.
  - a. If properly trained, one's conscience can serve a valuable function.
  - b. It motivates one to correct his course and seek forgiveness. ( *functions like pain* )
2. Satan tries to prevent people from correcting their course and finding forgiveness.
  - a. He tries to discredit God.
  - b. He obscures the truth with many lies and distortions of the truth.
  - c. He uses dynamic and often deceived teachers to advocate his falsehoods.
  - d. Being the prince of this world, he uses the masses to apply pressure to conform.
3. That lesson was directed primarily encouraging those who are initially seeking God.
  - a. When one realizes that he is a sinner ( **Rom. 3:10, 23** ) in need of forgiveness, he must not allow Satan to distract him from his search for God.
  - b. Their only hope is to find the way that God has prepared which leads to Him.  
**Matt. 7: 14-** For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.
  - c. Jesus is the way that the Father has prepared which leads to Him.  
**John 14:6-** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

**B. Sadly, even after one has found God he continues to need forgiveness because people ( *even Christians* ) never stop sinning.**

1. The book of I John was written to Christians to encourage faithfulness.  
**I John 5:13-** These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.
2. He starts the book off by telling Christians how to deal with sin in their lives.  
**I John 1 : 6-10** If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; **7** but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. **8** If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

- a. Christians have ongoing forgiveness if they are willing to confess their need for it.
  - b. Confession must be as ongoing as the sin .. i.e., .. as the need for forgiveness.
- C. Confession is more than reciting words, it necessitates at least three elements :**
- 1. One must recognize sin for what it is.
  - 2. One must recognize God for who and what He is.
  - 3. One must recognize himself for who and what he is.

**The 51<sup>st</sup> Psalm is one of the best examples of confess in the bible. David was burdened by the guilt of his sin of adultery with Bathsheba and the resulting murder; he understood what that sin meant to God and he realized the consequences to him which resulted from it.**

**I. One who makes confession of sin must understand his sin for what it was.**

- A. David knew he deserved to be judge for his sin and so must we.**
- 1. Vs. 4 - **Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.**
    - a. He made no excuse.
    - b. He blamed no one else.
    - c. *“I did it and I deserve whatever I get for it.”*
  - 2. Realizing his guilt he could not appeal for justice ... only for mercy.
    - a. Vs. 1b- **Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.**
    - b. *“Lord please extend your grace to me; don’t give me what I deserve.”*
  - 3. His appeal was to the nature of God.
    - a. **Psa. 103: 10- He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.**
    - b. **Psa. 130: 3- If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?**
    - \*c. *God is merciful, but He has the right to judge or to discipline us at any time.*
- B. True confession must be penitent; it can only appeal for mercy.**
- 1. Vs. 1b- **Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.**
  - 2. The penitent sinner realizes that he can do nothing on his own to repair relationship.
    - a. The doctrine of “doing penance” is a manmade doctrine.
    - b. Vs. 17- **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.**

**C. True confession requires that one understand and accept his guilt.**

1. Vs. **1b-2** Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. **2** Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin.
2. David uses all of the common words for that which produces guilt.
  - a. Vs. **1b-** blot out my transgressions
  - b. Vs. **2-** Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity
  - c. Vs. **3-** My sin is ever before me
  - d. Vs. **4-** I have sinned and done what is evil
  - e. Vs. **14-** Deliver me from bloodguiltiness

**\* David admitted, “*By every definition, I am guilty.*”**

**D. True confession takes full responsibility for all transgressions committed.**

1. David blamed only himself : MY sin, MY transgression, MY iniquity ...
2. He did not respond like those in the garden in Genesis 3 :
  - a. Adam blamed the woman and by implication God.
  - b. Eve blamed the serpent.
3. David placed **no** blame outside himself, not :
  - a. On Bathsheba
  - b. On Circumstances
  - c. On Satan
  - d. On God

**\* *David fully accepted the responsibility and the consequences of his actions.***

- Vs. **4-** Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.
4. This is becoming foreign to our national culture, but not to God's.

**II. One who makes confession of sin must understand the nature of God.****A. He must understand that God is holy and He wants man to be holy as well.**

1. **I Pet. 1: 16-** because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” ( cf.- **Lev. 19:2** )
2. God created man in His image ( *holy* ) and He expects man to stay as he was created.
3. The holiness which God desires is not just in external acts. ( *reformed lifestyle* )

- a. Vs. 6- Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,  
and in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.
- b. God looks at the heart, not just at the external acts. ( *Remember the Pharisees* )  
( Compare ... Heb. 4:12, I Sam. 16:7, Mark 7:21, Acts 1:24, Jer. 17:10, Psa 139 )
- c. *When God has one's heart, he will stop the lust before it becomes adultery.*
- \* *God can see the decay within the whitewashed tombs.* Matt. 23: 27 ( Cf.- Matt. 15:8 )

**B. It understands that God alone has the power to forgive.**

- 1. Vs. 7- Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
\* “hyssop” A wild shrub used in ceremonies to sprinkle blood. ( Exod. 12:22, etc )
- 2. He said, “If You cleanse me I’ll be pure, but I can’t do it.”
  - a. I am unable to rebuild the relationship through my own efforts.
  - b. Good intentions or resolutions to never do it again mean nothing.
  - c. Only God can make me clean again.  
Isa. 1: 18- “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord,  
“Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow;  
Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.”

**C. God is willing to forgive any Christian who will come to Him seeking forgiveness.**

- 1. David sincerely desire reconciliation with God.
  - a. Vs. 8- Make me to hear joy and gladness,  
let the bones which You have broken rejoice.
  - b. David’s heart was crushed by his sins.
  - c. Very likely a reference to shepherd’s habit of breaking the leg of an  
obstinate lamb and carrying it until it healed.
- 2. David appealed to the forgiving nature of God.
  - a. Vs. 9- Hide Your face from my sins And blot out all my iniquities. ( *God not vengeful* )
  - b. Micah 7: 18-19 Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over  
the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not  
retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love.  
19 He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our  
iniquities under foot. Yes, You will cast all their sins into the  
depths of the sea.
  - c. If God was not a forgiving God, no one could stand before Him.  
Psa. 130: 3-4 If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?  
4 But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared.

### III. The one who truly confesses his sin realizes his own condition.

#### A. Sin breaks one's relationship with God.

1. **Rom. 6: 23** - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
2. **Isa. 59: 1-2** Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short That it cannot save;  
Nor is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. **2** But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

#### B. Because David loved the Lord, he pleaded for the restoration of relationship.

1. **Vs. 10-11** Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. **11** Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
2. One does whatever is necessary to maintain the relationship with those he loves.  
( *God requires that one take ownership of his sin and that he be truly apologetic.* )

### CONCLUSION :

#### A. When a Christian turns from his sin and confesses it to God he is forgiven.

1. **I John 1:9-** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
2. There is no reason for a child of God to be out of fellowship with Him.
3. **If we confess our sins** God will restore our relationship.

#### B. What will be the result of that restored relationship ?

1. **Vs. 12-13** Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit. **13** Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will be converted to You.
2. When the Christian is cleansed it will have three effects on him.
  - a. He will have the “joy” of knowing he has a right relationship with God. **I Jon 5:13**
  - b. He will have a spirit that serves God willingly. “willing spirit.”
  - c. He will “will teach transgressors” the ways of God.
3. What is at stake ? Your usefulness to the lost, to the church ( **Psa 66:18** ), to God.

#### C. May we all seek to stand before God with a heart like David's.

**Vs. 17-** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart,  
O God, You will not despise.

**INVITATION :** Rebuild your relationship with God.

**Lesson Text :****Psalm 51: 1-17**

**1** Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. **2** Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. **3** For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. **4** Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.

**5** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. **6** Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom. **7** Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. **8** Make me to hear joy and gladness, let the bones which You have broken rejoice. **9** Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

**10** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. **11** Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. **12** Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit. **13** *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will be converted to You.

**14** Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; *Then* my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness. **15** O Lord, open my lips, that my mouth may declare Your praise. **16** For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. **17** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.