

Studies in Christianity Barriers to the Gates

S#1.

Failure to Confess One's Sins

S#2.

Text : **Psalms 32: 1-11, I John 1: 5-10**

A. David has long been one of my heroes in the faith.

1. He was a man who had developed a special relationship with God.

Acts 13: 22 – After He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who will do all My will.'

S#3.

2. How great it would be to have our lives described by God as He described David's life in a message to the wicked king Jeroboam.

I Kings 14: 8 – Because I exalted you ... , **8** and tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you — yet you have not been like My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart, to do only that which was right in My sight;

S#4.

B. Though David was a man after God's heart and devoted to God, he sinned. S#5.

1. When David's son (Amnon) raped his daughter (Tamar), David did nothing.
2. When he was having a midlife crisis, he committed adultery with a friend's wife.
 - a. David was becoming too old to fight so he was left home during the war. **II Sam 21**
 - b. He could not sleep so he was walking about on his roof in the night.
 - c. He looked down and saw Bathsheba his friend Uriah's wife bathing.
 - d. She was brought to him, he committed adultery with her and she became pregnant.
3. The pregnancy of Bathsheba was a problem on many fronts so David tried to hide it.
 - a. When hiding it proved impossible, David had her husband killed.
 - b. She was the wife of Uriah, one of David's 30 "mighty men." (*elite warriors*)
 - c. She was the daughter of Eliam, one of his other mighty warriors and the granddaughter of Ahithophel the Gilonite (Hittite), David's loyal counselor.
4. Thus David had sinned against God, against the nation, and against a loyal family.

C. That sin was contrary to David's character and it ate away at his peace.

1. For the man who seeks righteousness, conscience is a blessing from God.
2. When the prophet came to David it was a relief and **Psalm 51** gushed forth.
3. **Psalm #32** speaks of David's struggle with his sin when it was hidden.

D. David's greatest joy was his relationship with the Lord.

1. David had all that a great deal of men value most on earth.
 - a. He was handsome, rich, had beautiful wives and was famous.
 - b. He was one of the most powerful men in the known world.
2. But closeness to God is what brought him joy.
 - a. David had a right and positive attitude toward God ... **awe, respect, love, ...**
 - b. From his youth his relationship with God was the foundation of his life.

S#6.**E. David understood that God doesn't want an adversarial relationship with man.**

1. The eternal purpose of God is NOT to condemn, but to save mankind.
I Tim. 2: 3 – This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
2. David wrote most of the Psalms. (73 to 80)
 - a. This is a “maskil”, i.e., a teaching Psalm.
 - b. In all of David's psalms he emphasizes the goodness, love and mercy of God.

S#7.**F. The goal of this lesson is to discuss the confession of sin, not confession of faith.**

1. In speaking of communicating the gospel, we often hear the formula **H.B.C.B.**
2. The “confession” referred to in formula (“C”) is the confession of faith.
3. The confession of sins is an ongoing process because sins are often committed.
4. Even one with a heart like that of God sins and must deal with it.

I. There is great comfort that comes from openly dealing with one's sins.**S#8.**

- A. **Psalm 32: 1** – How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered! ² How blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit!

S#9.**B. Sin is a heavy burden to carry.****S#10.**

1. **Prov. 28:13** – He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.
2. **ILL.-** Remember getting in trouble at school .. waiting for phone call to parents.
3. Sin can never be dealt with without involving God.
 - a. God already knows about it.
 - b. God is eager to forgive IF His children bring it to Him.

S#11.

C. David describes his failures in four ways : Transgression, Sin, Iniquity, Deceit.

1. “**Transgression**” is the willful rebellion against the rule of God.

Heb. 10: 26 – For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, **S#12.**

2. “**Sin**” is a feminine noun indicating a violation by falling short of the standard.

- a. Sin is a failure to be perfect.

Rom. 3: 23 – for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **S #13.**

- c. God’s standard is ... Don’t sin, “*Be like Me.*”

Matt. 5: 48 – Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

3. “**Iniquity**” refers to moral crookedness, perversity, depravity.

- a. Even though we are careful, dirt rubs off on us in the course of life.

- b. God knows every detail of our lives and loves us anyway.

- * c. *God looks for opportunities to pull us close, NOT push us away.*

4. “**Deceit**” (KJV - **guile**) speaks to hypocrisy; literally: treachery, slackness

- a. Trying to project an untrue image of ourselves.

- b. Grace comes only to those who are not hypocritical. *One MUST own his sin.*

5. Understanding that grace is ONLY for those who are God’s children. by grace through faith, God puts three prerequisites to receiving grace :

D. David recognized the tremendous blessing of receiving God’s forgiveness.

1. “How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven.”

- a. God chose not to remember David’s sin. *God didn’t deal with him as a sinner.*

- b. **Psa. 103: 12** – As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us. **S#14.**

2. God’s forgiveness is never partial.

- a. Sin is either scarlet or it is made white; there are **no pink sins**. **S#15.**

- b. **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.

3. God’s forgiveness is never probationary. “*IF you don’t do it again*”

- a. God understands that we live in flesh that is weak and in a world that is wicked.

- b. Jesus commanded us to be patient with each other as He is with us.

Matt. 18: 22 – Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.” *Once forgiven, it never happened.* **S#16.**

S#17.

II. When a Christian doesn't deal with his sin, he bears a great burden of guilt.

- A. **Psa. 32: 3** – When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. **4** For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. S#18.

B. Conscience is a gift of God for the righteous, but often not for the wicked.

1. Through constant abuse, the wicked make their conscience useless.
Titus 1: 15 – To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. S#19.

2. God warns us that our conscience can be desensitized.
I Tim. 4: 2 – by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron (*cauterized to destroy sensitivity*) S#20.

S#21.

C. There's a difference between guilt and regret; the Apostle Paul dealt with regret.

1. **I Tim. 1: 15** – It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost.
** The context clearly indicates the Paul knew he was forgiven and saved.*

2. **Rom. 7: 14f** ... The Apostle struggled with the weakness of his flesh.
a. We Christian will always struggle with regret for sins of our past.
b. Christians who confess their sins are completely forgiven so NO LONGER guilty.

3. Knowing this, the Apostle was able to put his past behind him.
Phil. 3: 13-14 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. S#22.

D. When one becomes a Christian his sins are completely washed away .. no stain.

1. When baptized as a faith response one's sins are washed away by the blood of Christ
Acts 22: 16 – 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.' S#23.

2. When one's sins are washed away, his conscience is purged of all guilt. S#24.
a. **I Pet. 3: 21** – Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you — not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience — through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

- b. **Heb. 9: 14** – how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? S#25.

III. It is hard to comprehend a God so willing to forgive sinners.**S#26.**

- A. **Psa. 32: 5** – I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord”; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. **S#27.**
- B. The same experience enjoyed by David can be enjoyed by Christians today.
1. **I John 1: 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. **S#28.**
 2. Our sin cannot be forgiven until we own it.
- C. Because of His love, forgiving sins makes God happy.
1. **Micah 7: 18** – 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. **S#29.**
 2. Sin is rebellion against the rule of God in our life. (*King of all Kings*)
 3. It makes God happy to restore our broken relationship with Him. (**Luke 15: 7** – joy)

CONCLUSION :

- A. No Christian should ever bear the burden of guilt. **S#30.**
- I Pet. 5: 6** – Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, **7** casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.
- B. God makes the return of relationship easy.
1. He does not require one go to a confessional and itemize their sins.
 2. He doesn't even require one go before the congregation and repent. (*times*)
 3. He DOES require that you openly discuss your sin with Him.
- C. God requires we discuss our sins with each other. **S#31.**
1. **James 5: 16** – Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.
 2. American men tend to be private people so it is difficult to discuss our sins.
 3. One of our great downfalls is developing the ability to discuss spiritual things.
 4. This is a command that must be obeyed, NOT a suggestion. **S#31.**
- D. **If you were to die this very moment do you know for certain you would go to God?**

Lesson Text :**Psalms 32: 1-11**

1 How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered! **2** How blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit!

3 When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long. **4** For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. **5** I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, " I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. **6** Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him. **7** You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance.

8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you. **9** Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, Whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, Otherwise they will not come near to you. **10** Many are the sorrows of the wicked, But he who trusts in the Lord, lovingkindness shall surround him. **11** Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous ones;

I John 1: 5-10

5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. **6** 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 Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses 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.