**CONFESSION Text: Various Scriptures Date: 2/25/2018 Sunday PM**

**Confession** restores our fellowship with God. God doesn’t require that it be a formal, memorized, robotic act.

**Confession** is a Holy Spirit led response towards a renewed fellowship with God.

**Confession** is a Holy Spirit motivated guilt prompting an admission of sin.

**Confession** is an admission that sin has broken the fellowship between the Lord and myself.

**Confession** is an admission that God is holy in His nature and that we are sinful in ours.

**Confession** argues that our Advocate is greater than our tempter!

**Confession** says that forgiveness is motivation to continue seeking forgiveness for sins.

**Confession** results from a deep understanding of the power of the Gospel to save us from all of our sins! (Past, present and future)

**Confession** of sin is agreeing with God that the Gospel works!

“**Confession** is supposed to free us to enjoy fellowship with Christ. It should ease our consciences and lighten our cares. But some Christians do not understand how it works. They feel so guilty that they confess the same sins over and over; then they wonder if they might have forgotten something. Other Christians believe that God forgives them when they confess, but if they died with unconfessed sins, they would be forever lost. These Christians do not understand that God *wants* to forgive us. He allowed his beloved Son to die just so he could offer us pardon. When we come to Christ, he forgives all the sins we have committed or will ever commit. We don't need to confess the sins of the past all over again, and we don't need to fear that God will reject us if we don't keep our slate perfectly clean. Of course we should continue to confess our sins, but not because failure to do so will make us lose our salvation. Our relationship with Christ is secure. Instead, we should confess so that we can enjoy maximum fellowship and joy with him.” *Life Application Study Bible.*

*“Father,* ***I*** *know that* ***I*** *have broken Your laws and* ***my*** *sins have separated* ***me*** *from You.* ***I*** *am truly sorry, and now* ***I*** *want to turn from* ***my*** *sins towards You. Please forgive* ***me****, and help* ***me*** *avoid sinning again.* ***I*** *believe that Your Son, Jesus Christ died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I want Jesus to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward. Your Holy Spirit will help me obey You, and to do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.”*

***CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN…*** *Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved You with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Lord, You are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy; there is always forgiveness with You! Restore to us the joy of Your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us, and let Your word abide with us until it has wrought in us Your holy will. Amen.*

***Gracious God,*** *our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen.*

**Lev. 16** -- the Day of Atonement is in the context of the Church gathered for worship. Confession of sin was part of the worship instituted by God for our brothers and sisters who were looking ahead by faith to the coming Messiah who would once and for all time atone for their sins.

**2 Chr. 6** -- Solomon praying corporately "before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly".

**Ezra 9-10** -- Ezra and the people confessed their sin together "before the house of God".

**Neh. 9** -- The people of Israel corporately "made confession and worshipped the LORD their God."

**Psalms 1-150** -- Though not all psalms are confessions of sin, there are many throughout. The psalms were certainly meant for corporate worship.

**Acts 2:42** -- Surely "the prayers" would have included confessions of sin corporately as the Church after Pentecost gathered together for worship.

**Rev. 2:5** -- Jesus is sending a letter to the "church" in Ephesus. And He is commanding them to corporately *"remember" or confess* where they had failed and to corporately return to their "first love".

* ***The Lord wants to see true, meaningful repentance from humbled hearts (***[***Matthew 11:28-30***](https://ebible.com/query?utf=8%E2%9C%93&query=Matthew%2011%3A28-30&translation=ESV&redirect_iframe=https://www.allaboutprayer.org/bible.htm)***).***

**Psalm 139:23-24** Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

**Matthew 11:28-30** Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

**1 John 1:8-10** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just 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.

[**Verse 8**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Jn+1%3A8)**.** *The confession of sins* is a necessary consequence of "walking in the light" ([1John 1:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Jn+1%3A7)). "If thou shalt confess thyself a sinner, the *truth* is in thee; for the *truth* is itself *light*. Not yet has thy life become perfectly light, as sins are still in thee, but yet thou hast already begun to be illuminated, because there is in thee confession of sins" [Augustine].

**A Commentary: Critical, Experimental, and Practical on the Old and New Testaments.**

* ***He wants us to be specific in our prayer for the confession of sin, not generic (***[***Daniel 9:4-19***](https://ebible.com/query?utf=8%E2%9C%93&query=Daniel%209%3A4-19&translation=ESV&redirect_iframe=https://www.allaboutprayer.org/bible.htm)***). Tell God what you did.***

**See:** Daniel 9:4-19; Nehemiah 1

* ***He wants us to acknowledge that we have sinned, and He wants us to know that He readily forgives (***[***Psalm 32:5-7***](https://ebible.com/query?utf=8%E2%9C%93&query=Psalm%2032%3A5-7&translation=ESV&redirect_iframe=https://www.allaboutprayer.org/bible.htm)***).***

**See:** Psalm 32:5-7; Proverbs 28:13

* ***As He forgives us, we should also be forgiving others (***[***Matthew 6:12***](https://ebible.com/query?utf=8%E2%9C%93&query=Matthew%206%3A12&translation=ESV&redirect_iframe=https://www.allaboutprayer.org/bible.htm)***).***

**See:** Matthew 6:12

* ***Confessing our sins to one another, offers us accountability, allowing us to pray effectively for each other (***[***James 5:16***](https://ebible.com/query?utf=8%E2%9C%93&query=James%205%3A16&translation=ESV&redirect_iframe=https://www.allaboutprayer.org/bible.htm)***).***

**See:** James 5:16