

## **CONFESSION IS POWERFUL**

1 John 1:9 ... "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

We are going to discuss confession, not in terms of the Catholic practice of confessing to a priest, but as the Biblical instruction to personally confess our sins to God. This is not a criticism of the Catholic ordinance of Confession, just a discussion of the value of confessing our sins to God.

Confession of your sins to God is one of his requirements. God cannot forgive you of your sins if you neglect to confess them to him. So, that makes confession a fundamental prerequisite for a personal relationship with Christ. But, there are other very real and practical benefits of confession:

First, when you confess your sin to God you are agreeing with him that he was right and you were wrong. That is one of the first clues to the sovereignty of God, and the basis for a strong and enduring relationship with him. It reinforces the truth that God does not make mistakes.

Second, your confession is a humbling experience; it makes you more honest. We cannot approach God pretending to be equal with him. We seek and find him as inferior, sinful, and needy persons. Confession is the act of surrendering our will and our behavior to our Creator and Lord.

Third, when you confess your sins to God you admit that you lack the power and strength to remove them from your life. In that surrender, you are inviting God to lead you away from sin and into a more obedient lifestyle.

If you have unconfessed sin in your life, I promise you that your relationship with Christ is strained or even suspended. If you are feeling distant from God, or you do not see him acting on your behalf, it is probably due to unconfessed sin. We often say that disobedience results in suspension of our friendship with Christ, but disobedience is also sin. Instead of waiting for the next opportunity for confession in church, confess directly to God as soon as you are aware that you sinned. Why wait to restore your relationship with Christ and to enjoy his blessings, when you can restore that relationship right now?

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