

Why Confession is Important

1. Why is confession important in a Believer's life? What is sin?

When I kept silent about my sin, my bones wasted away
Through my groaning all day long.

For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;

4 My vitality was drained away as with the heat of summer. Selah.

I acknowledged my sin to You,

5 And my iniquity I did not cover up;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to Yahweh;"

And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah. (Ps 32:3-5, LSB)

But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you view your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, to Me every knee shall bow,

And every tongue shall confess to God."

So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God. (Rom 14:10-12, LSB)

2. How does God view a Believer's confession? How does Jesus view a Believer's confession?

If they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, in their unfaithfulness which they committed against Me, and also how they walked in hostility against Me - I also was walking in hostility against them, to bring them into the land of their enemies - or if their uncircumcised heart becomes humbled so that they then make up for their iniquity, then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and I will remember also My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham as well, and I will remember the land. (Lev 26:40-42, LSB)

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. (Matt 10:28-33, ESV)

The Teacher Note for this lesson is at:

<http://Helpmewithbiblestudy.org/25Curriculum/Class9-12/print/Salvation.Confession.WhyImportant.9-12.pdf>

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Teacher Notes

1. Why is confession important in a Believer's life? What is sin?

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Ask the student: do you recall what the definition of sin is? Use Genesis 3:6 as a reminder.

Then the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, so she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. (Gen 3:6, LSB)

God does not simply command what not to do, but also commands what not to wish, desire, nor long for. When God says, "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might" (Deut 6:5), He is informing what one should desire as, in this case, it reflects one's true love of God or not.

Ask the student: why is the Psalmist associating sin with a life wasting / draining away and contending with God? Do you agree that sin does this?

The Psalmist can understand the predicament Adam and Eve has passed on to us:

Are you like god knowing good and evil and desire Satan's life of the world? Or

Do you love God for what He's done and desire the life He promises His people by obeying His word?

One choice lead to a blessed eternal life and the other a difficult mortal life.

Ask the student: what is the Psalmist saying about confession?

Confession a) acknowledges our sin and b) recognizes that God is the law giver and judge. When we recognize this, God does forgive.

But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you view your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, to Me every knee shall bow,

And every tongue shall confess to God."

So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God. (Rom 14:10-12, LSB)

Ask the student: carefully observe what the apostle Paul is saying to the church of Rome. What is Paul saying to people who frequently acknowledge their sin verses those who think they are better because they do not think they sin or are more spiritual?

2. How does God view a Believer's confession? How does Jesus view a Believer's confession?

If they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, in their unfaithfulness which they committed against Me, and also how they walked in hostility against Me - I also was walking in hostility against them, to bring them into the land of their enemies - or if their uncircumcised heart becomes humbled so that they then make up for their iniquity, **then** I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and I will remember also My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham as well, and I will remember the land. (Lev 26:40-42, LSB)

Ask the student: what divine covenant is God operating under at this time when He refers to the nation of Israel confessing their iniquity? Do you understand the conditional statement – if they confess, then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, Isaac, and Abraham?

God is working under the conditional Mosaic Covenant. If you do this, I will bless you. If you do that, I will curse you. This was the means God would teach the nation of Israel what sin was and how to atone for it.

Just before the nation of Israel committed themselves to the Mosaic Covenant, God said this:

“You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I lifted you up on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. So now then, if you will indeed listen to My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.” (Ex 19:4-6, LSB)

If the nation of Israel were obedient, then God would bless them by fulfilling His covenant promises to Abraham and by extension to Isaac and Jacob.

Ask the student: what do you observe when the people of Israel do not confess their sins and humble themselves?

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. (Matt 10:28-33, ESV)

Ask the student: what do you observe what Jesus says about those who do not confess and acknowledge Jesus – God is Salvation? How is this related to confessing one's sin?

Confessing one's sin acknowledges one's failure to live by God's standard and acknowledges the only One who could forgive – the God who sent His Salvation.

For those who don't confess and place their faith in Jesus, God is Salvation, does not have Him to acknowledge his faith for forgiveness from His Father.

Ask the student: do you see any similarities to how God and His Son Jesus view a person's confession?

When under the Old Covenant, those who didn't confess and placed their faith in God were not acknowledged as His people and did not receive the blessing promised to Abraham.

When under the New Covenant, those who don't confess and place their faith in Jesus, God is Salvation, do not have Jesus to acknowledge their faith for forgiveness from His Father and the recognition as God's people who inherit the blessing promised to the descendants of Abraham.