

CONFESSING OUR SINS

1. Text: I John 1:8-10
2. Confession is one of those important biblical subjects we need to know and apply.

I. Understanding Confession

1. The word means to profess, declare, admit, acknowledge, state openly and publicly.
2. It is used in two senses in the New Testament.
3. First, it is used for declaring our faith and commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. This is done when we confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God before we are baptized. See Romans 10:9-10; I Timothy 6:12; Acts 8:37.
4. The profession of our relationship to Christ is a lifetime process. (Matthew 10:32-33)
5. This first way of confession was discussed in our last lesson. Now in this text we deal with the second sense: Confessing our sins.

II. Using Confession In The Christian Life

1. Once one becomes a Christian he uses confession of his sins as a means of remaining in the proper relationship to God. Baptism is the means by which we begin that new life in Christ and have all our past sins forgiven. (See Romans 6:3-4; Acts 2:38)
2. But what can we do when we sin after baptism? Again be baptized?
3. I John 1:9 If we (talking to Christians) confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
4. Luke 11:4 In the model prayer we ask for forgiveness of those confessed sins.
5. James 5:16 has Christians praying for one another's confessed sins. "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed." Healed here is used as in I Peter 2:24 for forgiveness.
6. Simple truth: How can we pray for anything but an "acknowledged sin?"
7. Acts 8:22-24 combines prayer for others' sins with repentance. Simon was told to repent of his sin and pray for forgiveness. Then he asks the brethren to pray for him.
8. Proverbs 28:13 Whoever confesses and forsakes his sins will have mercy. This sounds like the repentance in Acts 8. Confession without repentance is not enough.
9. Our confessions should be as public as our sins. Think of personal, private, public sins.
10. Public confessions and emotional appeals:

Conclusion: Matthew 3:6 and Mark 1:5 Confessing sins at John's baptism
David in Psalm 32:5

**A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings
Northwest Church of Christ - Sunday Morning, March 5, 2006**

