



Confession - 5

(1) WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS FOR US, AS SINNERS, TO OBTAIN MERCY?

Proverbs 28:13

Related Texts: 2 Chronicles 7:14; Luke 15:18-24; Jeremiah 3:12, 13

The Lord does not ask us to do some painful thing so that we may have forgiveness for our sins. We don't have to make a long and tiring journey or endure horrible punishment. The conditions of receiving forgiveness and mercy from God are simple, fair, and reasonable. If we admit our sins and, with His help, turn from them we will receive mercy.

(2) TO WHOM SHOULD WE CONFESS OUR FAULTS?

James 5:16

Psalm 32:5

Related Texts: Psalm 38:18; 41:4; Matthew 5:24; Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:8-10; Romans 10:10; James 4:10

First confess your faults to one another. If you have offended your friend or neighbor, you are to admit that you were wrong, and it is his duty to freely forgive you. The person you have hurt belongs to God and when

you hurt him you sinned against the One who created and came to save him. The next step is to seek forgiveness from God by confession. When we do this the case is brought before the only true Go-between, our great High Priest, who “was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin,” and who is “touched with the feeling of our infirmities,” and is able to cleanse from every sin. Hebrews 4:15.

(3) IN WHAT CONDITION MUST OUR HEART AND SPIRIT BE TO EXPERIENCE TRUE PEACE AND CLOSENESS TO GOD?

Psalm 34:18

Related Texts: Psalm 51:17; 69:32; 10:17; 147:3; Isaiah 61:1; 66:2; 57:15; Ezekiel 36:26, 31

If you have not come before God with a humble heart that is broken of spirit and confessed your sins, you have not yet taken the first step in accepting peace that God offers you. If you have not gone through the admission of your guilt, hated what you have done, been sorry for doing it, and have not confessed your sins with true humiliation of your soul, you have never truly sought to be forgiven of your sins. If you have never truly sought forgiveness, you have never found the peace that only God can give. Do you have sins from your past that have not been pardoned? If so the only reason is that you have not made the choice to humble your heart and follow the conditions that God’s Word gives.

(4) HOW SPECIFIC SHOULD OUR CONFESSION OF SIN BE?

Leviticus 5:5

Related Texts: Leviticus 26:40; 6:4-7; Numbers 5:7; Joshua 7:19; 1 Corinthians 11:28

Clear instruction is given in the Bible about this matter. Public or private confession of sin should be from the heart and freely spoken. It is not to be forced from the one who is guilty. Confession is not to be made in a light and careless way, or forced from those who don’t know or realize how bad the character of sin is. The confession that is poured out of the deepest part of our soul finds its way to the God of endless pity [Psalm 34:18].

True confession is always an admission of the exact wrong deed that has been done. This sin may be the kind that should be brought only before God. There may be things we have done wrong that we should confess to only the ones who have been hurt by them. Other times there may be sin that has affected a group of people. This should be confessed publicly. But all confession should be definite and to the point. We should admit the very sin of which we are guilty.

(5) WHAT SPECIFIC SIN DID THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL CONFESS?

1 Samuel 12:19

Related Texts: Psalm 51:1-4; Deuteronomy 32:49-52

In the days of Samuel the Israelites wandered away from God. They were suffering the results of their sin. They had lost their faith in God, lost their ability to understand His power

Confession

and wisdom to rule their nation. They didn't think He was able to take care of them and defend them in what He wanted them to do. They turned away from the great Ruler of the universe and asked to be ruled in the same way as the other nations around them. But before they found peace they admitted their exact wrong: "We have added unto all our sins this evil, to ask us a king." The very sin that they were convicted of had to be confessed.

(6) IN ORDER FOR OUR CONFESSION TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO GOD, WHAT PART MUST WE PLAY IN DEMONSTRATING OUR SINCERE DESIRE FOR FORGIVENESS?

Isaiah 1:16

Related Texts: James 4:8; Psalm 119:11; Titus 2:11-14; Zechariah 1:3; Acts 22:16; Isaiah 55:6, 7; Matthew 3:8; Amos 5:4, 15; Romans 12:9

Our confession will not be accepted by God unless we are truly sorry and then turn from the wrong. We must decide to change and put everything that would offend God out of our lives. This will be the result of true sorrow for sin. The part that we have to do is plainly told to us in Isaiah 1:16, 17. Paul says, speaking of the work of repentance: "Ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter." 2 Corinthians 7:11.

(7) WHEN IT IS POSSIBLE, WHAT SHOULD WE DO FOR THOSE WHOM WE HAVE OFFENDED, DEFRAUDED, OR INJURED?

Ezekiel 33:15

Related Texts: *Luke 19:8*; Leviticus 6:2-5; Ezekiel 18:7, 12, 16; Numbers 5:6-8; 1 Samuel 12:3; 2 Samuel 12:6; Matthew 5:24

(8) WHO DID ADAM AND EVE BLAME FOR THEIR ACTION, WHICH RENDERED THEIR CONFESSION UNACCEPTABLE TO GOD?

Genesis 3:12

Genesis 3:13

Related Texts: James 1:13; Exodus 32:21-24; 1 Samuel 15:20-22; Proverbs 28:13

When sin has deadened the understanding of good, the one who is doing wrong does not notice the faults of his character and does not realize how bad the evil is that he has committed. Unless he gives in to the convicting power of the Holy Spirit he will stay in partial blindness to his sin. His confessions are not real and from the heart. Every time he admits that he has done something wrong he says he is sorry but adds an excuse about why he did it. He says that if it had not been for certain reasons he would not have done the thing of which he is guilty.

After Adam and Eve had eaten of the forbidden fruit, they were filled with

a feeling of shame and fear. Their first thoughts were to find an excuse so they could avoid the horrible sentence of death. When the Lord asked them about their sin, Adam answered by laying the blame partly on God and partly on Eve. The woman put the blame upon the serpent. "Why did You make the serpent? Why did You let him come into Eden?" These were the questions hidden in Eve's excuse for her sin, and by them she was blaming God and saying He caused them to fall. This spirit of self-defense was started by the father of lies and has been shown by every human who are the sons and daughters of Adam. Confessions of this kind are not brought to us by the Holy Spirit and will not be accepted by God.

(9) HOW DID THE PUBLICAN VIEW HIMSELF?

Luke 18:13

Related Texts: Luke 5:8; Ezra 9:6; Psalm 40:12; Isaiah 6:5; Ezekiel 16:63

True repentance will lead a man to bear his own guilt for his sin and admit it without pretending to be innocent by trying to deceive. Like the poor publican, he will not even lift up his eyes to heaven and he will cry, "God be merciful to me a sinner." Those who do admit that they are guilty will be made upright, for Jesus will plead with His blood for the one who is sorry.

(10) WHAT SPECIFIC WORD DID BOTH PAUL AND DAVID USE WHICH WAS AN INDICATION OF THEIR TRUE SORROW FOR SIN?

Acts 26:10, 11

Psalm 51:3, 4

Related Texts: Psalm 32:5; 38:18; Luke 15:18-21

Examples of Sincere Confession: Luke 18:13, 14; 15:18-21; Psalm 51:3, 4; 2 Samuel 12:13; Daniel 9:3-12, 18; Jeremiah 3:25

Examples of Insincere Confession: Genesis 3:12, 13; 1 Samuel 15:22-26; Joshua 7:19-21

In examples from God's Word where someone has shown real sorrow and shame for sin, a spirit of admitting wrong was clear. They made no excuse for their sin. One specific example is Paul. He did not try to lessen or deny his guilt as he told about his sin in its fullness. He didn't hesitate to say that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." 1 Timothy 1:15.

(11) WHAT WONDERFUL PROMISE CAN WE CLAIM IF WE ARE TRULY SORRY FOR OUR SIN AND CONFESS IT TO GOD?

1 John 1:9

Related Texts: Proverbs 28:13; Acts 3:19; Jeremiah 33:8; Nehemiah 9:17; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Hebrews 7:25; Isaiah 43:25, 26: 1:18

The humble and broken heart, overtaken by real sorrow for sin, will value the love of God and the cost of Calvary. As a son admits his guilt to a loving father, so will those that are truly sorry bring all their sins before God.

