Confirmation Workshop #6: Confession & Forgiveness

Rev. Dr. Randy Rozelle

****

**Reflect**

* Do you recall a time when you got “caught with your hand in the cookie jar/a sin” as a child, student, or other? What happened?
* How did you feel inside? Why?
* When you sin, are you more tempted to: hide? Cover it up? Lie about it? Blame someone else? Make excuses? Downplay it? Justify yourself? Explain.

What God Teaches about Our Sin

* **Every person is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, therefore I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

“I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.” (Psalm 51:5)

*“There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.” (Eccles 7:20)*

*“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)*

* My Two Kinds of Sin:
	+ 1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Sin: total corruption of my entire human nature which I inherited from Adam through my parents (Psalm 51:1; Romans 5:12)
		- * Did anyone have to teach you how to sin?
	+ 2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Sin: every thought, word, deed, and desire that I commit against God’s 10 Commandments (Matthew 15:19)
		- Sins of Commission: doing the things we shouldn’t do (James 1:15)
		- Sins of Omission: not doing the things we should do (James 4:17)
* *Sin* is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ against God’s will & ways; it lit. means “missing the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

Close your eyes and put a dot on the bullseye. How many times would it take missing the mark before you could be rightly called a “***mark-misser”***?

*“Whoever keeps the whole law and stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.”*

*-James 2:10*



**WARNING**: Sometimes we’re tempted to think: “But I’m better than a lot

 of people!” Or, “Look at that person over there.”

\*\* Be careful that you don’t measure yourself against the wrong ! \*\*

God measures us against His standard and not in comparison to others!

 The Pharisees compares himself to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 The Tax Collector compares himself to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Luke 18:9-14

**Confession Has Three Parts:**

1. **C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**: I genuinely acknowledge my sins before God, am bothered by my disobedience to His words and ways, and my heart is sorrowful.

*“I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight. A broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.”*

*-Psalm 51:3-4, 17b*

1. **C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**: I ask God in Jesus to forgive all my sins – known and unknown – to cover them with Jesus’ blood. “God, I’m sorry that…” “God, forgive me for…”

*“Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your love; according to Your mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.”* -Ps 51:1-2

1. **Receiving/believing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ forgiveness!**

*“If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness.”* -1 John 1:9

**Reflect:**

* Do you think there’s a sin too big for God to forgive?

Christ Forgives Me, Now What?

* **What \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ should follow true repentance in our lives?**

*“Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.”* -John the Baptist, Matthew 3:8

*“Repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with repentance.”* -Acts 26:20

\*\*A renewed commitment to walk \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with God by the power of

the Holy Spirit in me.

Corporate Confession & Forgiveness: The Office of the Keys

*“Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.’”* -John 20:22-23

* The Office of the Keys is the special authority Christ gave His church to forgive the sins of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sinners, as long as they do not repent. (cf. Matthew 18:17-18)
* A *key* both \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Churches call pastors to carry out this duty on behalf of the congregation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – in the stead of and by the command of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
* What if it becomes open knowledge that a Christian in a congregation is living in unrepentant sin?

*“Jesus said, ‘Go and show him his fault first, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, taken one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.’”* -Matthew 18:15-17

* If the person still persists in unrepentance, he/she must be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the congregation.

*“It is reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father’s wife. Let him who has done this be removed from among you…. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven….”* -Paul, 1 Corinthians 5:1ff.

* The purpose of excommunication is NOT to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the person/s, but to: (1) lead him/her to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and faith; and (2) to prevent them from leading \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into sin also.
* If he/she awakens to their sin and repents, we joyfully receive them back into \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fellowship! -Luke 15:1-32

*“You ought to forgive and comfort him (the now repentant sinner) so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him.”*

-2 Cor 2:7-8

**Martin Luther’s 1st of 95 Theses**

1. Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, when He said "Repent", willed that the whole life of believers should be repentance.

**Reflect:**

* How often do you confess your sins to God? When do you tend to do it?
* What does God promise you every time you repent?

*“I am He who blots out your transgressions, and I will not remember your sins.”*

 -GOD, Isaiah 43:25