

One Anothering
Confess to One Another
Psalm 51; James 5

INTRODUCTION:

The One Anothering Commands ARE NOT About What God wants FROM US, But What He Wants FOR US.

You've heard that confession is good for the soul. Here's a recent example of a public tweeted confession.

http://start.att.net/news/read/article/sporting_news-kevin_durant_apologizes_for_idiotic_tweets_about_t-rspnews
9/20/17

"I use Twitter to engage with fans," Durant said (via [The Athletic's Anthony Slater](#)). "I think it's a great way to engage with basketball fans. I happened to take it a little too far. That's what happens sometimes when I get into these basketball debates about what I really love, to play basketball. I don't regret clapping back at anybody or talking to my fans on Twitter. I do regret using my former coach's name and the former organization I played for. That was childish. That was idiotic, all those types of words. I apologize for that."

Here's a confession that I read over a week ago (Sept 13). I read it the morning of the day that I was to give two talks at the missionary training event – Living in Grace. It was “up next” in my reading through the Valley of Vision prayers, and it hit home.

A Minister's confession

O God,

I know that I often do thy work without Thy power,
and sin by my dead, heartless, blind service,
 my lack of inward light, love, delight,
 my mind, heart, tongue moving without thy help.

I see sin in my heart in seeking the approbations of others.

This is my vileness, to make men's opinion
my rule, whereas

I should see what good I have done,
and give Thee glory,

Consider what sin I have committed
and mourn for that.

It is my deceit to preach, and pray,
and to stir up others' spiritual affections
in order to beget commendations,

Whereas my rule should be daily
to consider myself more vile than any man
in my own eyes.

We've looked at forgiveness 2 weeks ago, so today, we get the flip side. I'll actually do Confession-2 next week.

Confess to one another – how it is helpful? What is the value of it in our lives? Is it really necessary? Are our “mistakes” and “misunderstandings” really sins that need to be confessed? That's so old school, old time religion stuff, right?

Do we see our sin as sin, or simply as “over-reacting” –

Can't we just say, “I come from a long line of over-reactors.”

Christians are certainly not perfect in the fulfillment of all that the Word of God commands. We all know that sin manifests itself more in our personal relationships. Consequently, it is easy to sin against a brother or sister. Divisions in the church or rebellion in the family are often the result of a problem that has not been resolved. Everyone defends themselves, bitterness settles in and relations are destroyed. The Bible presents confession as a remedy for relational problems.

THE COMMAND: James 5:16; Psalm 51(2 Sam 11-12)

James 5 is not a formula for instant healing, but confession is a healing experience.

DEFINITION: homolegeo = “say the same thing as”

Call it sin

Call it forgiven

Call on God

It involves a believer Recognizing his fault, his sin against someone, claiming God’s forgiveness in Christ, asking forgiveness of the one sinned against, and relying on God’s grace to move on. It is a sign of a contrite heart of repentance.

Own it:

“I was wrong I’m sorry for doing or saying _____ Please forgive me”

When should I confess?

1-When the Holy Spirit convicts you of sin – it may be deliberate or unintentional

EX: As a young believer (age 18), I learned that confession is good for the soul – anger with my mother; not a “big deal” but I was convicted about it for a day or two.

It was obvious that God would not leave me alone so I finally went acted in faith and obedience and apologized. It was like a weight being lifted, even though she hardly noticed my response. I knew it and God was showing me that such reactions came from a sinful attitude in my heart.

The path to growth includes Confession DWJND – Do What Jesus Never Did (more on this next week)

Confession is NOT SOMEONE we meet before it is something we do. It is someone we meet WHILE doing it.

If your confession/ repentance doesn’t lead you to Jesus, then my guess is that it is diluted. That does not mean that it has NO value, but that you may be missing some depth that will lead to more intimacy with Christ.

Confess the right sin – Citizens arrest (Andy Griffith show)

“Andy, I have something to say and I want you to hear me out. Actually what I want to say is that I realize that I made a dang fool of myself, and I’m sorry. That’s what I wanted to say.”

What is (Tom) Barney sorry for?

He’s sorry that he made a fool of himself and that he looked bad.

Not exactly a Ps 51 confession.

Before we get down on Barney, let’s be honest. How often is my/ your confession similar to that?

I realize that my words or my actions made me look bad, or silly, or stupid, or foolish, and I feel bad about THAT, but not really so bad about what I did. Anybody with me?

Fruit to Root exercise

How do you get to the real issue??

-Review the situation – what happened?

-Recognize the external fruit – outward behavior of the flesh / opposite of the fruit of the Spirit.

-What deeper heart idol was exposed? Our anger and fear point us to our idols

-What was the dry stream or broken cistern you went to? “self-medicating”, the resume we recite to our self when we feel attacked or hurt.

Midland – Drinkin Problem...

People say I got a drinkin' problem

But I got no problem drinkin' at all

They keep on talkin'

Drawing conclusions

They call it a problem, I call it a solution

Dry streams and broken cisterns are the wrong solutions. They are symptoms of a deeper problem.

"For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns That can hold no water.

When our hearts forsake God, the fountain of living water, then we run to all sorts of things for meaning, worth, and value – drugs, sex, and rock n’ roll; food, approval, our resume of moral achievement, status, success, etc. THE TYPE OF THINGS THAT PAUL calls “DUNG” in Phil 3.

-What is the GOSPEL TRUTH we needed to remember??

Homework – DO YOUR OWN FRUIT TO ROOT EXERCISE

2- When your behavior has offended someone to the point that the relationship is in danger. Matt 5: 23-24

Psalm 51

Most will confess up to the point where we are caught, so we don’t confess a lot to each other, even if we do confess a lot to God. God knows our sin, so we really should be honest with Him, but others don’t know it all, so we can (and at times should) control what is shared in a given context.

If we are self-aware, we will catch ourselves, but we may also be delusional about our sin.

Confess to SOMEone doesn’t necessarily mean confess to EVERYone.

EX: Psalm 51 – David had sinned, and surely many in the palace knew about it. Secrets are hard to keep in those situations. Yet David did not confess until he was confronted by Nathan the prophet. We may only confess when confronted, and if so, it is a good thing to acknowledge, but it is even better to get out ahead of the “caughtness”.

The confessional Christian at his/her best is to be out ahead of our caughtness by asking God to give us the awareness and posture of heart that we need - Ps 139:23,24

There is benefit to purging with God and with a trusted friend or couple of people. We need friendships where we can trust each other and be honest with each other. WE NEED A NATHAN and we may need to be a Nathan for someone else.

Don't throw out the confessional baby with the bathwater.
We need a place for gathering grace – someone who brings grace to you.
Get support – don't go it alone

<https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/justintaylor/2014/01/02/bonhoeffer-beware-of-community-beware-of-being-alone/>

Let him who is not in community beware of being alone. Bonhoeffer (Luther).

If you love to be around people, you probably need some solitude to go deep into your soul –
If you love solitude, you probably need some people to experience community

3- Your sin disrupts the peace and purity of the church Eph 4: 1-3

4- When seeking help and support from another person in the struggle against a particular sin

NON-EXAMPLE: It is not the inappropriate spiritual striptease in the church.

FOUNDATION OF CONFESSION

We are all sinners, forgiven by the grace of God in Christ.

THE OBSTACLES to confession: #1

- The desire to take care of our reputation

OUR REPUTATION IS WHAT SENT Jesus TO THE CROSS

It is not worth defending.

Phil 3 – Paul determined that his “reputation” was dung.

SOUL'S CONFLICT WITH ITSELF

It were an easy thing to be a Christian, if religion stood only in a few outward works and duties, But to take the soul to task, and to deal roundly with our own hearts, and to let conscience have its full work, and to bring the soul into spiritual subjection unto God, This is not so easy a matter, because the soul out of self-love is loath to enter into itself, lest it should have other thoughts of itself than it would have. –Richard Sibbes

OBSTACLE #2 our perception of our own righteousness.

Trip on chapter 1 of Whiter than Snow- devotional meditations on Psalm 51 - our righteousness keeps us from seeking God's forgiveness and restoration.

We can get spiritual “points” or credibility and sound very righteous in a Christian sort of way by saying, “Yes, I'm a sinner just like everyone else.”

But in reality, we're thinking “*I don't mind you calling me a sinner, as long as you don't treat me like one -i.e. expect me to confess real sin.*” We resist being in “the sinner's place” in the narrative of our relationships.

We don't want to admit how big and deep and real our sin really is. This is not new – Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Eve: “I was tricked”

Adam: “That woman YOU gave me”

There is only mercy for sinners. There is only forgiveness for sinners.

<https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/ryanreeves/2016/04/20/did-luther-really-tell-us-to-love-god-and-sin-boldly/>

“If you are a preacher of mercy, do not preach an imaginary but true mercy. If the mercy is true, you must therefore bear the true, not an imaginary sin. God does not save those who are only imaginary sinners.

Staupitz to Luther

You will have to get used to the belief that Christ is a real Savior and that you are a real sinner! For God is neither jesting nor dealing in imaginary affairs, but He was greatly and most assuredly in earnest when He sent His own Son into the world and sacrificed Him for our sakes.” 2

Luther’s pastoral concern expressed to his friend Philip Melanchthon: *you’re a sinner, man, get used to it. And the more you get used to it, the more the cross will make sense as the ground of your entire life.*

Jack Miller – “Cheer Up; you’re worse than you think.”

IMPLICATIONS:

- Confession and reconciliation are part of sanctification.

Confession / repentance is the door to change – Marriage, family, work, church

Lead with confession / repentance –(NOT with accusation) “Repentance stinks”- a paraphrase from a recent conversation

Psalm 51 speaks to the posture of the heart that pleases God- A broken contrite heart.

See INSERT on proud broken by Nancy DeMoss- use it as a confessional / prayer guide this week.

A broken and contrite heart God will not despise but a proud haughty heart God will oppose, and even hates according to Proverbs 6 16 -19.

Do you want to have God opposed to you?

The path to growth includes Confession--- DWJND

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Prepare to Come to the Table tonight to commune with the One who purchased our forgiveness.

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