

Keeping Fellowship with God

Overview

First John 1:9 provides a transforming truth that every Christian can apply every day. When we sin, our fellowship with God is broken. The gateway to restored fellowship is through confession of sin.

Lesson Goals

1. Determine to develop the habit of continually confessing sin.
2. Understand that sin does not affect our standing in Christ, but it does affect our fellowship with Christ.
3. Understand the proper mode of confession.

1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Outline

I. The Heart of Confession: If we confess our sins...

A. A false confession hinders the relationship: Saul's sin and confession 1 Samuel 15:1-31

- Saul was given specific instructions, no room for doubt about their meaning 1 Samuel 15:3 *Destroy Amalek*
- Saul was confronted by the prophet Samuel with his specific sin 1 Samuel 15:17-19 *Did not obey*
- Saul gave a half-hearted confession which even Samuel saw through 1 Samuel 15:20-21 *Saul blame other people*
- Saul didn't want the consequences of his sin, only to cover it up before the people 1 Samuel 15:30 *sinners (law breakers) often cover up wrong doing*

B. A true confession strengthens the relationship: David's sin and confession 2 Samuel 11 and Psalm 51

- David was given general instructions in the Law of Moses which he was instructed to read for himself Deuteronomy 17:14-20, see particularly verses 18-19 *read & obey law*
- David was confronted by the prophet Nathan with an allegory: 2 Samuel 12:1-13
- David gave a heart-wrenching confession and threw himself on God's mercy 2 Samuel 12:13; Psalm 51:1-12 (mercy, verse 1; all sin is against God, verse 4; God wants us clean on the inside, verse 6; fellowship with God, verse 12)
- David didn't care about the consequences of his sin, only to restore his relationship with his heavenly Father Psalm 51:16-17

- David committed adultery with Bathsheba (2 Sam 11:1-5)
- Bathsheba became pregnant (2 Sam 11:5) - see 2 Sam 11:6-13
- David had her husband Uriah killed (2 Sam 11:14-22)
- God was very unhappy with David (2 Sam 11:27)

*God's answer
1 Sam 15:
22-23
obedience
better than
sacrifice*

II. The Hope from Confession: ...He (God) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A. Our hope in the mercy of God: *He (God) is faithful and just...*

Sin isn't forgiven by God's kindness; it is forgiven through God's justice. God does not ignore sin, He placed it on Christ and allowed Him to die in our place.

Faithful: God did what He said He would do: Pay for our sins Himself

Genesis 22:8 *And Abraham said, My son, **God will provide himself** a lamb for a burnt offering...*

Just: All debts are paid, either by the debtor or by the lender. God has chosen to pay our debt for us. Our choice is to either accept the payment or accept the burden of the debt

B. Our hope in the character of Christ: ... *to forgive us our sins...*

David understood what Saul did not: God looks on the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). The rituals are to show us what God thinks of our sin, not to please God (compare 1 Samuel 15:22 to Psalm 51:6).

And Samuel said,

"Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord?"

Behold, to obey [God's Word] is better than sacrifice, and to hearken [is better than] than the fat of rams."

C. Our hope in prosperity through Christ: ...*and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Hebrews 10:1-18 (God is not pleased with sacrifices for sin, verse 6; we are made righteous through the sacrifice of Jesus, once for all, verse 14; no further offering for sin is necessary, verse 18).

III. The Handling of Confession

A. All the time: Don't wait to be confronted. Saul did not cease to be king when God rejected him, but he lost God's blessing on his throne. From this point on, Saul only had his own strength to keep himself in power.

B. Every sin: Don't hold anything from God. David did not cease to be king when he sinned against God. He accepted whatever consequences came with those sins. His goals were to:

- Please God (Psalm 51:9)
- Have fellowship with Him (Acts 13:22)
- Glorify God as king of Israel (2 Samuel 7:18-29, particularly verse 26)

D. Any place: Hebrews 4:13: *Neither is there any creature [person] that is not manifest in his sight [plainly seen by God]: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him [God] with whom we have to do [to whom we will give account].*

God sees everything we do when we do it and where we do it.

God promises to forgive all of our sin

Not confessing only hurts us.