



Confessing Our Sins

09.22.2024 @ 5 PM

- In the Old Testament...
 - Confession was made prior to a trespass offering (Numbers 5:6-7).
 - David confesses his sin with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12:13; cp. Psalm 51).
 - Proverbs 28:13 says, “*He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.*”

The Necessity of
Confession



- In the New Testament...
 - Simon the sorcerer confessed his sin (Acts 8:18-24).
 - It is commanded by both John and James (1 John 1:8-10; James 5:16).
- Three Steps: Repent → Confess → Pray

The Necessity of
Confession




Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words defines “confess” as,

“(a) to confess, declare, admit (Jn. 1:20; Acts 24:14; Heb. 11:3); (b) **to confess by way of admitting oneself guilty** of what one is accused of, the result of inward conviction (1 Jn 1:9); (c) **to declare openly by way of speaking out freely**, such being the deep conviction of facts (Mt. 7:23; 10:32).”


What Confession
Means and Implies






“...if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it...I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”

2 Corinthians 7:8-10



“And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’”

Luke 15:21



“...I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. And I prayed the Lord my God, and made confession, and said, ‘O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land. O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face...”

Daniel 9:3-7

- *Sincere confession...*
 - *Avoids vague generality.*
 - *Is not ignorant of guilt.*
 - *Is more than words—including repentance.*
 - *Avoids excuses or justifications.*

What Confession
Means and Implies



- The prodigal acknowledged his sin to...
 - Himself (Luke 15:17).
 - His father (15:17-21).
 - His God (15:21; cp. Genesis 39:9; Leviticus 6:2; 2 Samuel 12:13).

To Whom Confession
Is Made




- The prodigal did not say...
 - “Well, others have done it too.”
 - “I’ve just had a lot of personal problems lately.”
 - “I’ve just been young and foolish like the rest of my generation.”
 - “ I’m under an intense amount of peer pressure.”
 - “I had a momentary lapse of judgment.”
 - “I may have done this but I’m really a good person at heart.”

To Whom Confession Is
Made



- Sin's confession depends upon its circulation.
 - If between you and God, confess it to God (1 Jn 1:9).
 - If between two people, confess to one another (Matthew 5:23-24).
 - If it is public knowledge, confess it publicly (Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:1).

A person is shown in the bottom left corner, with their hands clasped in prayer, looking down. The background is dark with a subtle light gradient.

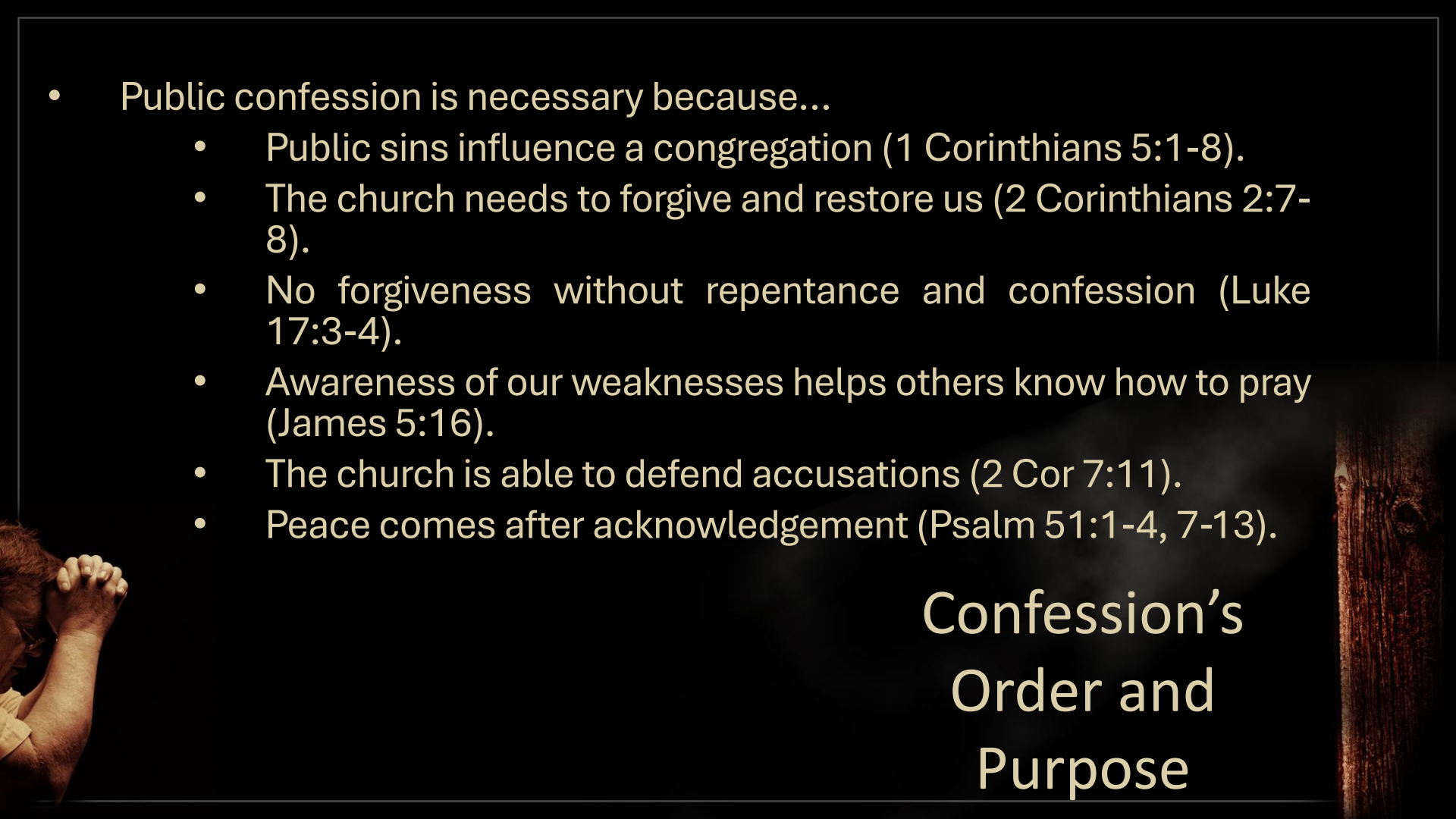
Confession's
Audience

- There is a proper order to confession...
 - After repentance
 - Before forgiveness
- Repentance → Confession → Forgiveness

Confession's
Order and
Purpose



- Public confession is necessary because...
 - Public sins influence a congregation (1 Corinthians 5:1-8).
 - The church needs to forgive and restore us (2 Corinthians 2:7-8).
 - No forgiveness without repentance and confession (Luke 17:3-4).
 - Awareness of our weaknesses helps others know how to pray (James 5:16).
 - The church is able to defend accusations (2 Cor 7:11).
 - Peace comes after acknowledgement (Psalm 51:1-4, 7-13).



Confession's
Order and
Purpose

A person with their hands clasped in prayer, wearing a light-colored shirt, is visible on the left side of the image. The background is dark with a vertical wooden plank on the right side.

Joy Follows Confession

“It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found” (Luke 15:32, NKJV).