

God's Gift of Confession

To Whom Should You Confess and Why 2

Points to Consider

1. Confess to the One Who Confronted You
2. Confess to Spiritual and Righteous People
3. People to Whom You Shouldn't Confess

Confess to the One Who Confronted You

This person already knows about your sin. This is consistent with the point in the last lesson that we should confess to people who know about our sin and/or who are affected by our sin.

Gal 6:1-2 *Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.*

Matt 18:15-16 *Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.*

When we confess to the people who have confronted us with our sins, we are being _____ back to God and _____ our relationship with men.

1 Sam 15:24-26 *Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. 25 Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord." But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel."*

After making excuses at least three times, Saul finally confesses his sin to _____ . Samuel was a **prophet**.

2 Sam 12:13-15 *So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die. 14 However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die." 15 Then Nathan departed to his house.*

David confessed to Nathan, a _____, who confronted him with his sin.

It is very uncommon in Scripture to confess a private sin to someone who did not _____ know about it.

Confess to Spiritual and Righteous People

We've already seen this with Saul confessing to Samuel and David confessing to Nathan. Both of those hearing the confessions, not only were the ones confronting the sin, they were _____.

James 5:13-20 *Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit. 19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.*

First note that if we are suffering _____ can pray. This was also the case with Simon the Sorcerer.

If someone is sick they are to call for the _____ of the church.

The elders are to pray over the one who is sick and anoint them with oil.

The prayer of faith will save the sick and forgive any unforgiven sins.

We are to confess our sins to _____ people.

It is not saying to confess your private sins or thoughts to everyone or anyone who will listen.

This passage does teach that at times people need others to help them _____ a sin.

Ezra 10:12-16 *Then all the assembly answered and said with a loud voice, "Yes! As you have said, so we must do. 13 But there are many people; it is the season for heavy rain, and we are not able to stand outside. Nor is this the work of one or two days, for there are many of us who have transgressed in this matter. 14 Please, let the leaders of our entire assembly stand; and let all those in our cities who have taken pagan wives come at appointed times, together with the elders and judges of their cities, until the fierce wrath of our God is turned away from us in this matter." 15 Only Jonathan the son of Asahel and Jahaziah the son of Tikvah opposed this, and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite gave them support. 16 Then the descendants of the captivity did so. And Ezra the priest,*

with certain heads of the fathers' households, were set apart by the fathers' households, each of them by name; and they sat down on the first day of the tenth month to examine the matter.

The people agreed to confess to the _____ of the assembly.
They came together with the _____ and the judges of their cities.

Matt 3:4-6 *Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him 6 and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.*

The people confessed their sins to _____ the Baptist.

People to Whom You Wouldn't Confess

Generally, you wouldn't want to confess to the unrighteous or unspiritual. If you sinned against them or they know about your sin, they would need to know that you have repented.

Generally, you wouldn't want to confess to people who did not know about your sin.

2 Sam 13:1-4 *After this Absalom the son of David had a lovely sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her. 2 Amnon was so distressed over his sister Tamar that he became sick; for she was a virgin. And it was improper for Amnon to do anything to her. 3 But Amnon had a friend whose name was Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother. Now Jonadab was a very crafty man. 4 And he said to him, "Why are you, the king's son, becoming thinner day after day? Will you not tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister." 5 So Jonadab said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill. And when your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Please let my sister Tamar come and give me food, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it from her hand.'" 6 Then Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill; and when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, "Please let Tamar my sister come and make a couple of cakes for me in my sight, that I may eat from her hand."*

You shouldn't tell someone you have sinful thoughts if they are going to help you sin. Jonadab was a "very _____ man."

Note - This is a different situation since Amnon was _____ confessing to get forgiveness or help. His friend asked what was wrong and he simply told him about his sinful desire.

Amnon sinned against his sister. Absalom killed Amnon. David refused to talk to Absalom for years.

Gal 6:1-2 *Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.*

You should not knowingly confess to a weak brother who might be _____ to sin.

Prov 11:13 *A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.*

Prov 20:19 *He who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets, Therefore do not associate with a gossip. NASU*

It is foolish to reveal your secret sins to a _____.
You do want to confess to one with a faithful spirit. They will conceal your sins from others.

Possible Consequences of Confessing to the Wrong People

1. You place a burden on others that they are not able to bear.
2. You ruin your reputation. God uses good reputations! This will be the topic of another lesson.
3. We promote the sins of gossip and self-righteousness.
4. We hurt the reputation of the church when we go to outsiders for help and guidance. (1 Cor 6; David's sin.)

What we Considered

1. You should confess to people who confront you with your sin.
2. You should confess to spiritual and righteous people.
3. You should not unnecessarily confess to unspiritual or unrighteous people.
4. You should not unnecessarily confess to people who might be easily caught up in your sin.
5. You should not unnecessarily confess to people who might gossip or commit other sins based on your confession.
6. You should not confess to crafty people who will aid you in your sin.