

CONFESSION OF SIN

AGREEMENT AND ADMISSION OF GUILT

- the Greek verb *homologeō* means 'to agree, admit, acknowledge, confess' and is used in extra-biblical literature of
 - (1) friends who have *agreed* to do something together,
 - (2) a general who captured a town by negotiation, that is, through *agreement* on the terms of surrender,
 - (3) *admitting* you have treated others with contempt, and (4) *admitting* your faults to others, such as timidity
- confession is agreeing with God you've committed a sin (agreement logically precedes an admission of guilt)
 - the opposite of confession is keeping silent about your sins (Psa 32:3–4; Prov 28:13)

SELF-JUDGMENT

- confession is judging yourself correctly—rendering a guilty verdict with respect to personal sins (1 Cor 11:31)

FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

- sin breaks our fellowship with God: the moment we sin we drop out of fellowship and become carnal (control by the flesh)
 - confession produces forgiveness of sins, cleansing from all unrighteousness, and fellowship with God (1 John 1:5–9)
 - the moment you are aware of an unconfessed sin confess it immediately to restore your fellowship with God
- continual, uninterrupted fellowship with God is not possible in this life because we all have sin natures and commit sins

KNOWN AND UNKNOWN SINS

- confession cleanses from known ("our sins") and unknown ("cleanse us from all unrighteousness") sins (1 John 1:9)
 - you can't confess unknown sins (they keep piling up until you confess a known sin)
 - unknown sins are automatically forgiven when you confess known sins

NAMING SINS

- naming sins is recommended but not commanded (naming clearly identifies the sins you're confessing)
- David did not name his sins of adultery and murder (2 Sam 12:13; Psa 41:4; 51:4) and numbering the people (2 Sam 24:10)
 - but Moses named the sin of his people—idolatry: "They have made a god of gold for themselves" (Exod 32:31)
- Ezra, Nehemiah, and Daniel also named specific sins in their prayers (Ezra 9:10–12, 14; Neh 1:7; Dan 9:5, 6, 10, 11, 14)

DAILY DECISION

- confession is a choice: in 1 John 1:9 "if" is a third class condition expressing uncertainty (maybe you will, maybe you won't)
 - self-inspection is a good habit to cultivate: ask yourself, "Have I committed any known sins in the past few hours?"
 - praying without ceasing is a good way to keep short accounts (begin each prayer with confession)

PROMISE FROM GOD

- confession is made to God in prayer (Psa 32:5)
 - forgiveness (God's part) is promised for confessing our sins (our part); e.g., 1 John 1:9
- confess and forsake your favorite sins to receive compassion from God (Prov 28:13; cf. 'azav 'forsake' in Ezek 23:8)

DIVINE DISCIPLINE

- failure to confess results in divine discipline (Psa 32:3–4)
 - confession may not remove divine discipline (Josh 7:19–25; 2 Sam 12:10–12, 14–23; 24:10–17)

ISOLATION OF SIN

- when you confess a sin, forget it—God has; why keep punishing yourself for something God has forgiven?
- don't let the yo-yo effect discourage you (the frequency of confession will decrease as you become spiritually mature)