

iConfess

Introduction: The key to any healthy relationship is communication. That communication is centered on two major factors: Confession (leveling and clearing the air) and Forgiveness (acceptance and renewal of relationships). Consider Luke 17:3-4. If it is necessary for there to be correction, it is also necessary for there to be acceptance of that correction.

I. CONFESSION & HEALING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

- A. God taught the necessity of confession to maintain fellowship with Him. (Lev. 5:4-6; 16:21; Num. 5:6-7; Ezra 10:11; Psa. 32:5; 19:12)
- B. The benefits of making confession to God (1 Jn. 1:8-9):
 - 1. Without confession of sin to God it is evident we are not trying to better ourselves.
 - 2. It humbles us and expresses our dependence on God.
 - 3. It keeps our consciences tender and pure.
 - 4. It forces us to see ourselves more clearly.
 - 5. It enables us to be one with God.
- C. Ecclesiastes 12:14 teaches that every secret thing will be brought into judgment. However, things confessed and forgiven are no longer secret and will not be judged.

II. CONFESSION & HEALING OUR RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN ONE ANOTHER

- A. How we love one another is a demonstration of our love for God. (Matt. 25:40-46; 1 Jn. 4:20-21)
- B. Certain roadblocks hinder us from “repenting & returning” with confession when we have wronged one another. (Jn. 12:42-43)
- C. Benefits of confession of wrongs to one another:
 - 1. It keeps us from sweeping things under the carpet.
 - 2. It causes love, intimacy and appreciation to grow.
 - 3. It enables spiritual fellowship to continue.
 - 4. It allows personal healing to take place.

Conclusion: James 5:16—Confessing my faults to others and to God makes me accountable and lets them know that “I’m working on it.”