

Confessing our Brokenness

Session #1—Discipleship 201

INTRODUCTION: Confession does not earn us the forgiveness of God. Confession results from our gratitude for what Christ has done for us. We confess because we are forgiven and because we want our lives to be transformed.

The Bad News: *We are Sinful* (Genesis 1-3)

1. We are created in God's **IMAGE** (1:26-27)
 - a. We were without **SIN**
 - b. We cannot excuse our sin by saying "I'm only **HUMAN**"
2. Satan tempted Adam & Eve (3:1-7)
 - a. The desire to be like **GOD**
 - We don't have to answer to **ANYONE**
 - We don't have to be obedient **CREATURES**
 - We want to be equal with the **creator**
 - b. We are **BORN** into this sin.
For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.
(Romans 5:19)
 - c. We ARE sinful
By **THOUGHT**, word, and deed
By what we have **DONE**, and left **UNDONE**
3. The results of sin
 - a. Leads to physical **DEATH**.
...just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death

spread to all because all have sinned...

(Romans 5:12)

- b. Broken relationship with:
GOD, others, and the earth (Genesis 3:17-18)
- c. We became slaves to **SIN** & Satan

There is NO middle ground...

... We are either slaves to Satan, or Christ.

Whose slave will we be?

Do you not know that ... you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?
(Romans 6:15-19).

The Good News: *God Forgives Us*

1. The Principle of forgiveness
 - We can repent, feel **guilty**, pay **restitution** for the chaos we have created; yet, none of this restores a broken relationship
 - The only thing that can reconcile a broken relationship is forgiveness.
 - The only one with the power to forgive is the **aggrieved** party
2. God is always the **prime** mover
 - God acts, and we **respond**
 - God forgave us before we even **knew** that we needed to be forgiven
 - We respond out of gratitude for this gift with repentance

But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

3. How does God forgive us: God **speaks** a Word
 - a. God's Word is powerful
 - With a Word, God tames the **chaos** of the earth (Genesis 1:3-13)
 - With a Word, God creates the animated beings that fill this planet in order to make the world **productive** (Genesis 1:14-30)
 - With a Word, God makes an announcement to the world: *"I love you and forgive you!"*
 - b. **Jesus** is this Word of love, forgiveness and reconciliation (John 1)
1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ... 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1:1-14

How Do We Repent?

1. **CONFESS** that we are sinners (Romans 3:23)
2. **REPENT**
The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. (II Peter 3:9)
 - a. Means to **Turn our** back on sin
 - b. An about face, or an **180°** turn

3. Ask God to **FORGIVE** us.
If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (I John 1:9)
 - Our contemporary **apologies** often fall short
 - We fail to ask for forgiveness: perhaps we are afraid that we will be **rejected**
 - Yet, Jesus' forgiveness always **precedes** our request: therefore, we know that we are already forgiven before we can even ask.
4. Live a **NEW** life in Christ.
So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (II Corinthians 5:17. Also, Romans 6:1-4)
 - a. We are in a **PROCESS** of getting well
 - b. We **SIN** daily, therefore we are a work in **PROGRESS**
 - c. We have no time to dwell on the **faults** of others: we have enough to work on in our own lives. (See: Mt. 7:1-5)

"For God is not to be held fast in faith in the sense that believers can look back on their faith as a decision made once and for all. God always remains beyond what has once been grasped, which means that the decision of faith is genuine only as actualized ever anew."

Rudolf Bultmann, *Science and Existence* (1955).