

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 _____ (1:26-27)
 - a. We were without _____
 - b. We cannot excuse our sin by saying "I'm only _____"
2. Satan tempted Adam & Eve (3:1-7)
 - a. The desire to be like _____
 - We don't have to answer to _____
 - We don't have to be obedient _____
 - We want to be equal with the _____
 - b. We are _____ 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 _____, word, and deed
By what we have _____, and left _____
3. The results of sin
 - a. Leads to physical _____.
...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:
_____, others, and the earth (Genesis 3:17-18)
- c. We became slaves to _____ & 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 _____, pay _____ 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 _____ party
2. God is always the _____ mover
 - God acts, and we _____
 - God forgave us before we even _____ 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 _____ a Word
 - a. God's Word is powerful
 - With a Word, God tames the _____ 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 _____ (Genesis 1:14-30)
 - With a Word, God makes an announcement to the world: *"I love you and forgive you!"*
 - b. _____ 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. _____ that we are sinners (Romans 3:23)
2. _____
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 _____ back on sin
 - b. An about face, or an _____ turn

3. Ask God to _____ 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 _____ often fall short
 - We fail to ask for forgiveness: perhaps we are afraid that we will be _____
 - Yet, Jesus' forgiveness always _____ our request: therefore, we know that we are already forgiven before we can even ask.
4. Live a _____ 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 _____ of getting well
 - b. We _____ daily, therefore we are a work in _____
 - c. We have no time to dwell on the _____ 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).