

Holier Than Now

Be Holy – Part 2

Confession

I. Confession = “to say the same thing as another,” or, “to agree with another.”

Confession of sin on the part of the Christ-follower means to say the same thing about [your] sin that God does; to agree with God about that sin and all its implications. This includes your hatred of that sin, your sense of guilt because of it, your sorrow because of it, and the determination to put it out of your life and never to do that thing again.

II. The Confession Commands

1. Private (1 John 1:8-9)

2. Public (James 5:16)
(I suggest that confessing to God is “easy.” Confessing your sin to a friend...now that is hard...and a real motivation to stop sinning!)

III. How to confess

1. Self-examination (Psalm 139:1-4)
 - a. Prepare by placing yourself in God’s hands.
 - b. Confess with precision
 - c. Take responsibility

2. Sorrow (Psalm 38:18)
 - a. *Why did I do what I did?*
 - b. *What happened as a result of my sin?*

3. Stop it (James 4:8-9)

“Why should you expect anyone to take your confession seriously unless you promise that you do not intend again to foul your relationship with still more of the same unfair pain? You can give no guarantee; the best of us go back on promises. But anyone who has been hurt should expect a sincere intention, at least.” – Lewis Smedes: