

A signpost with four directional signs. The top sign points right and says 'HIS FAULT'. The second sign points left and says 'HER FAULT'. The third sign points right and says 'THEIR FAULT'. The bottom sign points left and says 'NOT ME'. The background is a blue sky with white clouds.

**HIS FAULT**

**HER FAULT**

**THEIR FAULT**

**NOT ME**

**NO ONE  
LIKES TO  
CONFESS**



# **THE SERVICE OF CONFESSION**

- I. Biblical Confession
- II. The Benefits of Confession



# I. BIBLICAL CONFESSION

## A. "To Speak the Same Thing"





A silhouette of a person shouting into a megaphone against a bright yellow background. The word "CONFESS" is written in large, bold, yellow letters on the megaphone.

**CONFESS**

Matthew 10:32-33

Acts 8:36-37

**Matthew 16:16** *Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*



# I. BIBLICAL CONFESSION

A. “To Speak The Same Thing”

B. More Than Just An Apology!

1. Admitting My Sins Are  
Terrible And Disgusting

2. How Does God Feel About Sin?





# HOW DOES GOD FEEL ABOUT SIN?

- **Hebrews 1:8-9** *But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. (9) You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."*
- **Example of Hosea**



# HOW DOES GOD FEEL ABOUT SIN?

- **Psalm 5:5** *The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.*
- **Psalm 97:10** *O you who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the lives of his saints; he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.*
- **1 John 1:9** *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*



# BIBLICAL CONFESSION

A. “To Speak The Same Thing”

B. More Than Just An Apology!

1. Confession Is Admitting What We Have Done Is Just As Terrible And Disgusting As God Says.

2. How Does God Feel About Sin?

3. Confession Is Painful!

a. Coming Clean, Acknowledgment Of Hurting God

b. No Excuses, No One To Blame But Me





## **SIDE POINTS: DANGEROUS TRENDS WHEN SOMEONE CONFESSES**

- Do Not Treat Some Sins As Seriously As God Treats Them
- Treats Other Sins More Seriously Than God Treats Them
- Coddling The Confessor
  - No Specifics Given
  - Brief Mention Of Confessor In Prayer
  - No Mention Of How Terrible Sin Is Or Freeing Power Of Forgiveness



# I. BIBLICAL CONFESSION

A. “To Speak The Same Thing”

B. More Than Just An Apology!

C. Is Not General In Nature

1. “Please forgive us all our sins”  
Is A Request! (Not A Confession)

2. It Is Comfortable To Name Sins One By One







I'M

SORRY

HONEY

PLEASE

FORGIVE ME

## CONFESSION IS NOT TO BE GENERAL

- For What?
  - She Probably Already Knows..
- God Deserves A “For What?”
- Tell God Why You Are Sorry.

*Joshua 7:20 And Achan answered Joshua and said, "Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I have done:*



# I. BIBLICAL CONFESSIOIN

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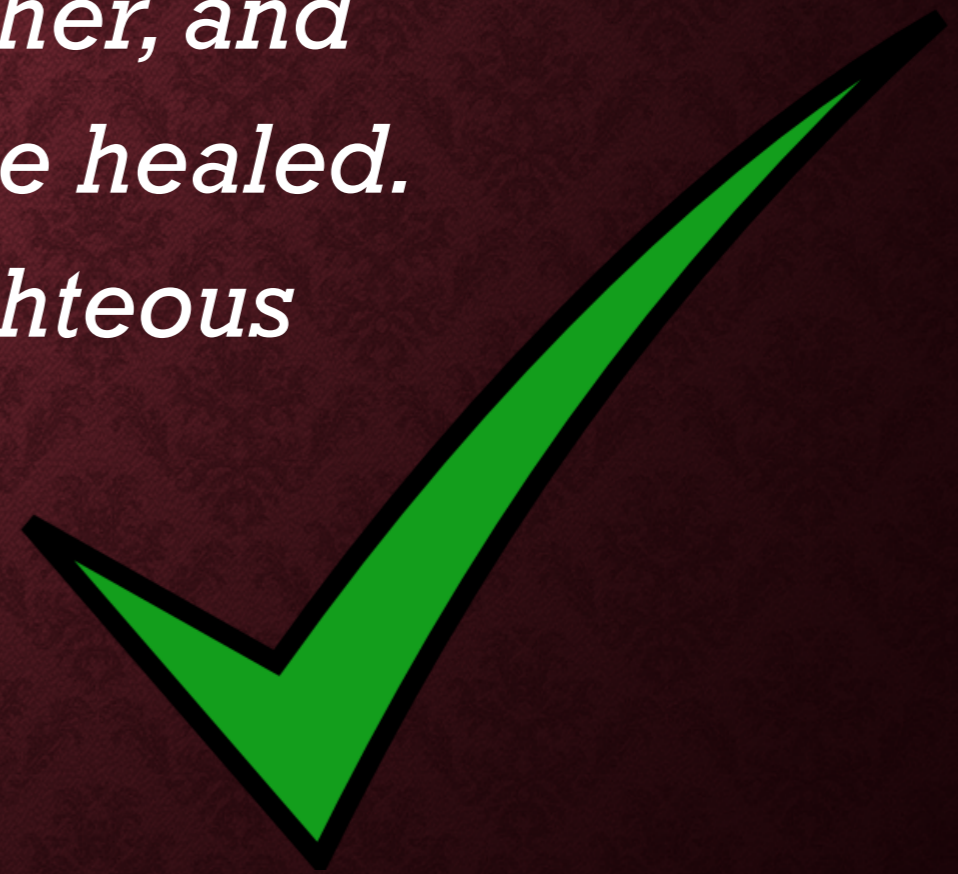


## II. BENEFITS OF CONFESSING TO EACH OTHER

### A. Obey The Command – James 5:16

*Confess your trespasses to one another, and  
pray for one another, that you may be healed.*

*The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous  
man avails much.*





# SOAPBOX MOMENT

- “If anyone has committed a public sin where they have brought shame and reproach on the church”
- That is not the only reason to confess publicly!
- Private Sins Plague Me Most





## II. BENEFITS OF CONFESSING TO EACH OTHER

A. Obey The Command – James 5:16

B. It Gives A More Immediate  
Consequence For Private Sin

1. May Not See Consequences For Some Sins Until  
Judgement

- *c.f.* Revelation 21.8

2. Confession Is  
Supposed To Hurt!





# CONFESSION HURTS

a. Everyone Hates Admitting Wrong

b. Two Ways To Avoid  
Confessing Sins:

- i. Pretend I Am Never Wrong
- ii. Stop Sinning

c. Use Your Hate Of Admitting Wrong For Good





## **II. BENEFITS OF CONFESSING TO EACH OTHER**

**A. Obey The Command – James 5:16**

**B. It Gives A More Immediate  
Consequence To Private Sin**

**C. God's Family Helps Me**





# **GOD'S FAMILY HELPS ME**

**James 5:16** *Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

## **1. They Pray For What I Need**

- a. My Wife Prays For Me**
- b. People Who Know My Struggles Pray For Me**
- c. There Is No Way For You To Know Unless I Tell You**



# **GOD'S FAMILY HELPS ME**

**James 5:16** *Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

- 1. They Pray For What I Need**
- 2. They Encourage Me In The Way I Need**
- 3. They Provide A Tangible Reason To Fight Today**



## **II. BENEFITS OF CONFESSING TO EACH OTHER**

**A. Obey The Command – James 5:16**

**B. It Gives A More Immediate  
Consequence To Private Sin**

**C. God's Family Helps Me**

**D. My Confession Helps My Brother**





# MY CONFESSION HELPS MY BROTHER

1. There Is Power In The Influence of A Visibly Forgiven Sinner
2. Hypocrisy Breeds Hypocrisy
  - a. “Am I The Only One Who Struggles?”
  - b. **Galatians 2:13** *And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.*



# **MY CONFESSION HELPS MY BROTHER**

- 1. There Is Power In The Influence of A Visibly Forgiven Sinner**
- 2. Hypocrisy Breeds Hypocrisy**
- 3. The Picture of Strength**
  - a. A Brother Who Has It All Together From Outside Appearances?**
  - b. A Brother Who Is Open About Their Temptations And Are Visibly Fighting?**
  - c. God Has Always Used Weaknesses To Display His Strength**



# CONCLUSION

- Confess Your Sins To God – Proverbs 28.13
  - *Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.*
- Confess Your Sins To Your Brother Because
  - The Hurt Of Confession Keeps You From Sinning Again
  - Brethren Will Pray For You
  - Brethren Will Encourage You
  - Your Confession Helps Your Brethren
- Confession Hurts, But Not Confessing Hurts Worse



## PSALM 32:1-6

*How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,  
Whose sin is covered! (2) How blessed is the man to  
whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose  
spirit there is no deceit! (3) When I kept silent about  
my sin, my body wasted away Through my groaning all  
day long.*



## PSALM 32:1-6

*4) For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. Selah. (5) I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah. (6) Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him.*