

The Principle of Confession

1 John 1:5 – 2:2

- I. Confession acknowledges God's glory.
- II. Confession agrees with certain facts.
- III. Confession accepts something or someone rather than denying it.
- IV. Confession always admits guilt and sin.
 - A. It means you do not deny the presence or practice of sin in your life.
 - B. It means you tell the truth about what you have done.
 - C. It means you give glory to God.
 - D. It means you humble yourself before God and acknowledges your unworthiness
 - E. It means you admit your guilt before God.
 - F. It means you recognize that Jesus Christ Himself is your only defense before a holy and righteous God.
 - G. It means you rely completely upon God's faithfulness and righteousness for our forgiveness and cleansing.

Review

1. According to this lesson, what was the basic meaning of the biblical word used for "confession"?
2. What are the basic facts with which the confession of Romans 10:9-10 agree?
3. What do we learn about confession from Matthew 10:32-33; John 1:20; Acts 23:8; 24:14; 1 John 2:22-23; 4:2-3; and 2 John 7?
4. What do we discover about confession of sin from 1 John 1:8—2:2?

Further Consideration

1. What do you learn from this lesson about confession or agreement with certain facts in relation to your salvation (Rom. 10:9-10)?
2. What can you conclude about those religious teachers or groups who do not agree with the Bible concerning the Person and work of Jesus Christ (see 2 John 7)?
3. Is it necessary for you to confess your sins to another person? Why or why not (base your answer on Scripture we have studied in this lesson)?
4. What does 2 Chronicles 6:36-39 reveal about personal attitude in confession?
5. What promise do we find in 1 John 1:9 concerning confession and cleansing?

Going Further

Read the account of David's sin in 2 Samuel 11:1-12:25, then read Psalm 51. What characteristics of repentance do you find in David's prayer after the visit by Nathan the prophet? Can this be true repentance if he waited until he was caught to confess? How could God forgive him?