

# Confess Your Sins to One Another

James 5:16

May 28, 2023 | Jason Finley

**James 5:16** | Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

**Big Idea:** Find healing through biblical confession.

## I. Our Ailment: Sin

**1 John 1:8** | If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**Psalm 32:1-5** | 1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. 5 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah*

"He who is alone with his sin is *utterly alone*. . . . But it is the grace of the gospel, which is so hard for the pious to understand, that confronts us with the truth and says: You *are* a sinner, a great, desperate sinner; now come as the sinner you are, to the God *who loves you*. He wants you as you are; he does not want anything from you, a sacrifice, a work; he wants you alone. . . . You can hide nothing from God. The mask you wear before men will do you no good before him. He wants to see you as you are, he wants to be gracious to you."

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

## **II. God's Provision: Healing**

**Confess: "to same the same as"**

### **1. Confess sin to God**

- a. Jesus forgives sin. (Ephesians 1:7, 1 Timothy 2:5, James 5:15)
- b. We wage war against our sin. (Colossians 3:3, 5)

### **2. Confess sin to one another**

- a. We wage war against our sin together (1 John 1:7)
- b. We experience healing (Psalm 32:3, Proverbs 28:13, James 5:16)

## **III. Our Faith in Action**

**1. Who? (Psalm 7:8, Proverbs 11:13)**

**2. When? (Acts 19:18)**

**3. What?**

- a. Admit honestly (actions and attitude) without qualification, justification, or accusation.
- b. Accept consequences

#### 4. What about temptation? (Matthew 26:41)

#### 5. How to receive confession (Galatians 6:1-2)

- a. Don't be shocked
- b. Don't lessen God's standard
- c. Do listen carefully
- d. Do be a friend
- e. Do run to the cross
- f. Do pray
- g. Do celebrate

**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.

### **Benediction**

**1 Peter 2:24** | He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.