

Sermon Title: Confessional Worship
Sermon Series: Gospel Directed Worship
Scripture: Psalm 51
Speaker: Pastor Mike Barnhart



Ultimately, confession is ‘a welcome’ into a deeper appreciation of the presence, promises, and grace of God.

Psalm 51 ESV

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID, WHEN NATHAN THE PROPHET WENT TO HIM, AFTER HE HAD GONE IN TO BATHSHEBA.

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;

19 then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Confessional worship leads to greater grace.

Three types of offenses against God:

- 1. Transgression**
- 2. Iniquity**
- 3. Sin**

1. Transgression is a spirit of rebellion.

2. Iniquity is moral uncleanness.

Titus 1:15 ESV

15 To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled.

3. Sin is an instance of weakness or failure.

What's the nature of confessional worship?

Two things: Humility & Dependence Upon God

Psalm 51:1–2 ESV

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

Psalm 51:3–4 ESV

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

Matthew 18:5–6 ESV

5 “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, 6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

Psalm 51:7–9 ESV

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Psalm 51:7 ESV

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

“If we are not careful, religion can become one of the biggest coverups for our sin. We can live in sin, particularly secret sin, and still gather together regularly and convince ourselves that we’re OK. Sadly, we can participate in outward ritual while covering up the inward reality of sin in our lives. May God

help us not to sing songs and listen to sermons while bypassing brokenness over our sin. The path to the grace of God is paved with honesty before God.”

—David Platt

1 John 1:9 ESV

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Psalm 51:8 ESV

8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

Psalm 51:9 ESV

9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Jeremiah 16:17 ESV

17 For my eyes are on all their ways. They are not hidden from me, nor is their iniquity concealed from my eyes.

Confession as worship is recognizing your sin for what it is.

Confessional worship leads to greater grace.

Restorative Grace

Psalm 51:10–19 ESV

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;

19 then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Confession is God's welcome to enter into a deeper experience of the majesty of His grace.