

Encountering Jesus through Confession

Now the goal of our instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. Some have departed from these and turned aside to fruitless discussion. 1 Timothy 1:5-6

*Pursue peace with everyone, and holiness—without it no one will see the Lord. Hebrews 12:14.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Matthew 5:8.*

How do we become people with pure hearts, good consciences, sincere faith?

What comes to mind when you think of confession?

The Greek word the NT primarily uses is ὁμολογέω (homologeō), which means, “to concede that something is true.” Or literally “to say the same thing.” It is the embodiment of honesty.

How can we say the same thing as God when it comes to the truth of our hearts?
When it comes to our sin, what can we agree upon?

“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” 1 Timothy 1:15

We deny or minimize our sin and forget why Jesus came.

We magnify our sin and forget that Jesus came.

Jesus wants us to agree, to live truthfully, so that he can wash, and heal, and save, and restore.

Luke 7:36-50

If the room is polled on who they think the biggest sinner in the room is, everyone (besides Jesus) agrees it's the woman.

Here is a woman with a pure heart, a good conscience, a sincere faith who is acting out of extravagant love (1 Timothy 1:5-6)

She is fulfilling the first commandment more than anyone in the room.

This woman's confession speaks volumes without words.

“Therefore I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; that's why she loved much. But the one who is forgiven little, loves little.” Then he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” (Luke 7:47-48)

Being honest about our sin, agreeing with God about the reality of our hearts and receiving his forgiveness is the door through which we draw near to the love of God.

If we say, “We have no sin,” we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8-9 (Hebrews 10:19-23)

Confession comes to us as a gift. Not an obligation.

Confession is an active means of experiencing the goodness of Christ's forgiveness through his mercy, grace, and love each day of our lives right now.

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect. James 5:16