

Questions

- What is Prayer?
- What is the place of Corporate Prayer?

Prayer

Confession

Confession

- Definition:

- a) To agree/align with God

- b) To acknowledge person, purpose, and privilege

Confession = Agreement

- NOT a mechanical admission
- NOT sorrow without commitment
 - Sorry for the sentence
 - Not for the sin
- BUT to affirm the truthfulness of the situation from God's perspective
 - Sincerely take God's side in the matter
 - Consistency in attitude and speech with God's attitude and speech

Confession = Acknowledgement

- Confess God's Person = Acknowledging His right to rule and receive worship
- Confess God's Purpose = Acknowledging His right to judge/damn and redeem
- Confess God's Privilege = Acknowledging His sovereignty and submitting to Him

Confession the Antithesis of Denial

Peter's Denial of Christ

Peter's Denial of Christ	
Deny = "say no"	Confess = "say yes"
Disallow, disclaim, disapprove	Allow, claim, assert, affirm, approve
Disassociate	Associate with person, practice, proclamation
Disown, disavow, shut out, turn down	own, avow, welcome, take

What We Confess

- Christ as Messiah, King, and the Son of God (Matt. 16:16)
 - Those who acknowledge Him will be acknowledge by Him (Mat. 7:21-23; 10:32-33)
 - All men will eventually acknowledge Christ (Rom. 14:11-12; Phil. 2:11)
- Our Sin
 - Conversion: Confession trusts Christ to redeem (1 Jn. 1:9-10)
 - Cleansing: Confession trust Christ to keep one clean (Jn. 13)

Confession in Conversion

- ◉ Faith/Repentance = two sides of the same coin
 - ◉ Faith/trust/belief granted with a new heart
 - ◉ Repentance = the turning away from rebellion to obedience and submission
- ◉ Confession arises from both
 - ◉ Acknowledging/Affirming/Agreeing that Christ is Lord (Faith)
 - ◉ Acknowledging/Affirming/Agreeing one's sin and the One who forgives (Repentance)

Confession in Worship

- Confession gives God glory (Josh. 7:19)
- Confession acknowledges sin (Lk. 5:8)
- Confession is sensitive to God's holiness (Is. 6:5)
- Confession acknowledges God's worthiness (Dan. 9:4)

Confession in Prayer

- Placed early in Prayer
 - Confession of sin
 - Clearing the air to make room for praise, thanksgiving, etc.
- Placed later in Prayer
 - Confessing His worthiness/praise/thanksgiving
 - Whenever time spent with Him reveals sin

Psalm 32

- Blessed Forgiveness (vv. 1-2)
- Turmoil Turned To Tranquility (vv. 3-7)
- Instruction and Warning (vv. 8-9)
- Source of Joy (vv. 10-11)

Blessed Forgiveness

32:1-2

- v. 1) Blessed (אַשְׁרֵי) is the forgiven and covered one
 - Forgiven Trespases
 - Covered Sin
- v. 2) Blessed (אַשְׁרֵי) is the undeserved honest one
 - Not imputed guilt
 - Spirit of honesty/transparency

Turmoil Turned to Tranquility

32:3-7

- vv. 3-4) Turmoil of unconfessed sin
- v. 5) The turning point: CONFESSION
- vv. 6-7) The Tranquility of forgiveness

Instruction & Warning

32:8-9

- v. 8) YHWH's Promise
 - YHWH will teach the RIGHT way to avoid trespass
 - YHWH will counsel to avoid future sin
- v. 9) YHWH's Warning
 - Be quick to confess
 - Don't make chastisement necessary

Source of Joy

32:10-11

- v. 10a) The source and frequency of sorrows
 - The wicked do not confess
 - Therefore the wicked have sorrows
- vv. 10b-11) The source of security and joy
 - Trust in YHWH = security
 - Therefore rejoice in HIM