

BETWEEN THE LINES

A Deeper Look...

#972- CONFESSION: Honesty for the Soul

The Scripture has many really wonderful passages with regard to the issue of honestly facing the failures of life and confessing them. Let's consider a few of them...

- Leviticus 5- Confession in the honest required before efficacious sacrifice.
- Leviticus 16- The High Priest prepared the camp before Atonement with confession.
- Joshua 7- Honesty was forced from the guilty Achan.
- I Kings 8- Solomon said that God's people could only retain relationship by honesty.
- II Chronicles 30- Hezekiah put Judah back in order by the act of confession.
- Ezra 10- The scribe pled for the people with this act of honesty.
- Nehemiah 1- Nehemiah also knew the experience of pleading for the people.
- Nehemiah 9- The people followed the leadership in assembling for confession.
- Psalm 32- David acknowledged his transgression and it was a healthy exercise.
- Proverbs 28- Telling the truth about sin and weakness is a condition for blessing.
- Daniel 9- Even noble Daniel practiced the art of confession.
- Matthew 3- Good confession was a prerequisite for John's baptism.
- James 5- Honesty with other believers is a positive reality among the faithful.

In conclusion: One of the truly great passages on the concept of confession is found in I John...

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

What a statement of hope!

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**Confession is also honesty about positive truth!** We easily fall into the trap of only considering confession in the realm of acknowledging sin and weakness. This is only part of the story. Remember, confession also deals with the realm of acknowledging truth by positive testimony...

- I Kings 8- We confess the sacred name.
- Matthew 10- The reciprocal act of confessing the Father so we can be acknowledged.
- John 1- John the Baptist only told the truth about his role as the forerunner.
- John 9- Confessing Jesus can be dangerous!
- Acts 23- Pharisees confessed the truth of resurrection and angels.
- Acts 24- Paul confessed to being a "heretic"!
- Romans 10- One of the things truth will acknowledge is that "Jesus is Lord".
- Philippians 2- Eventually that truth will be universally proclaimed.
- I Timothy 6- Jesus would not deny the truth... even to Pilate.
- Hebrews 11- God's faithful admit to being only pilgrims in this world.
- John 4- Truth proclaims that Jesus is the son of God.
- II John- Not to confess this truth makes you a liar.
- Revelation 3- Christ confesses His relationship to His people before His Father.

One of the privileges that I've been given in ministry is to have been able to speak to dozens of youth groups. I've found that involving them in created problems, which force decisions on values, is one of the most effective methods of teaching. Therefore I've written many of these "sticky problems" through the years. Here's a contemporary retelling of David's life that I've successfully used many times to challenge thinking with regard to repentance, and confession...

### **Enough Is Enough**

You are the chief executive of a worldwide corporation and you have just expanded to a new city. You picked a promising young man to head up that new division. He started out brilliantly but then became very unpredictable. He has gone through periods of insubordination and irresponsibility but they are always followed by telegrams of apology and more brilliant work. The little "down" periods do take their toll, though, as he seems to be losing proficiency little by little. If you could see years in advance, when would you fire him?

- Year 1 - You name him district manager and he helps the previous manager a great deal.  
- He solves a major foreign trade problem in a single day.  
- He brags about his accomplishment in the company paper.  
\*\*\* TELEGRAM OF APOLOGY \*\*\*  
- He drives 200 small businessmen into the poorhouse.  
\*\*\* TELEGRAM OF APOLOGY \*\*\*  
- He marries a senator's daughter.
- Year 2 - He takes an extended vacation to build up his own interests.
- Year 3 - He embezzles some company funds for his own private use.  
- He makes a fool of himself in front of some new clients.  
\*\*\* TELEGRAM OF APOLOGY \*\*\*
- Year 4 - 85 small business people from the corporation take the blame for his mistakes.  
\*\*\* TELEGRAM OF APOLOGY \*\*\*  
- He makes a brilliant merger with your permission.  
- He is insolent and insubordinate to a member of the executive board.  
\*\*\* TELEGRAM OF APOLOGY \*\*\*
- Year 5 - He runs off with a secretary. (The senator is not impressed!)  
- He ruins a man who won't merge with his company.  
- He runs off with another secretary. (Again, an offense to the senator.)  
- He ignores his wife and abandons her... the last straw with the senator.  
\*\*\* TELEGRAM OF APOLOGY \*\*\*  
- He is insolent to the board member again.
- Year 7 - He travels to a foreign country and ruins several small businesses,
- Year 9 - He breaks a merger agreement and drives the man out of business.  
\*\*\* TELEGRAM OF APOLOGY \*\*\*  
- He brilliantly saves the company from economic disaster... partly caused by himself!
- Year 10 - He completely reorganizes the company and strengthens it... in *his* opinion.  
\*\*\* TELEGRAM OF APOLOGY \*\*\*
- Year 18 - He sends two double-crossers to prison.
- Year 23 - He runs off with several more secretaries.  
\*\*\* TELEGRAM OF APOLOGY \*\*\*  
- He again saves the company from a problem that he created.  
- He rebuilds the main factory and office.
- Year 25 - He builds up the economy and cleans out some crooks for the good of the industry.  
- He donates money and help to a very worthy cause.
- Year 28 - He puts down a major scheme to destroy the corporation.
- Year 32 - He ruins a company vice-president and takes the man's wife and property.  
\*\*\* TELEGRAM OF APOLOGY \*\*\*
- Years 32-40... More of the same... He tries to re-unify the stockholders after all his blunders.

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