

Steps to Christ
Chapter 4
Confession

“The humble and broken heart, subdued by genuine repentance, will appreciate something of the love of God and the cost of Calvary; and as a son confesses to a loving father, so will the truly penitent bring all his sins before God.” Steps to Christ, p. 41.

(Definition: *Confession*--To admit or acknowledge something damaging or inconvenient to oneself.)

I. False Motivations in Confession

 **Read Genesis 3:12-13; 1 Samuel 15:24-25**

Discussion Questions:

1. What do the experiences of Adam and Eve and Saul have in common?
2. Why do you think human nature tends to avoid responsibility?
3. What effect does placing responsibility on someone else have on repentance?

 **Read Exodus 10:16-17; Joshua 7:19-20; Matthew 27:3-5**

Discussion Questions:

4. What do you think was the motive Pharaoh and Achan had for confessing their sin?
5. What do you think the differences are between the confessions of Achan and Pharaoh and between Adam and Eve and Saul?
6. What has experience taught you usually happens when a person makes a confession based on fear of punishment?
7. Do you think this is effective?
8. Assess the confession that Judas made. How would you compare the confession of Judas in this text with the confessions which have already been discussed?
9. Think of some situations in contemporary life that might be compared with Judas' confession.

II. Examples of True Confession

 **Read Psalm 32:5; Luke 15:17-21; and Acts 26:10-11**

Discussion Questions:

10. What elements of true confession can you find in the above texts?

11. Do you believe it is possible to repent without making a confession of sins or faults? Please explain your conclusion.

12. Explain the relationship of confession to repentance.

III. Effects of True Confession

 **Read Ezra 10:11; Proverbs 28:13; Isaiah 1:16-17**

Discussion Question:

13. From the above texts, what must be the result of true confession? Why do you feel this is necessary?

 **Read Numbers 5:7 and Ezekiel 33:15**

Discussion Questions:

14. Identify an important component of true confession in these texts.

15. Why do you feel this component of confession is important?

IV. The Importance of True Confession

 **Read Proverbs 28:13; Romans 10:10 and 1 John 1:9**

Discussion Questions:

16. What is the message of these texts?

17. How would you explain this message to someone?

 **Read James 5:16**

Discussion Questions:

18. What is the effect of true confession on personal relationships?

19. When James 5:16 is implemented, what kinds of interpersonal relationships do you think might be affected?

“The conditions of obtaining the mercy of God are simple, and just, and reasonable. The Lord does not require us to do some grievous thing in order that we might have forgiveness of sin. We need not make long and wearisome pilgrimages or perform painful penances to commend our souls to the God of heaven or expiate our transgressions; but he that confesses and forsakes his sins shall have mercy.” Steps to Christ, p. 35.