



Antonio Ciseri "Ecce Homo" (John 19:5)



Steps To Christ

Ellen G. White

Chapter 4 Forgiveness

Memory Verse – 1 John 3:4 (NKJV)

“Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.”

Scriptures

New King James Version

Scriptures

1. How much does God know about what we do?

Hebrews 4:13 (NKJV). “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.”

(See also Numbers 32:23, Psalm 90:8).

Scriptures

2. To whom are we responsible for our actions and their correction?

Psalm 32:5 (NKJV). “I acknowledged my sin to You,
And my iniquity I have not hidden.
I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the
LORD,
And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.”

Scriptures

3. How may our sins be forgiven?

1 John 1:9 (NKJV). “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Scriptures

4. What is the contrast between those who confess and those who don't?

Proverbs 28:13 (NKJV). “He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes *them* will have mercy.”

Scriptures

5. How fully will God pardon the sin?

Isaiah 55:7 (NKJV). “Let the wicked forsake his way,
And the unrighteous man his thoughts;
Let him return to the Lord,
And He will have mercy on him;
And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon.”

Scriptures

6. How specific should our confession be?

Leviticus 5:5 (NKJV). “And it shall be, when he is guilty in any of these *matters*, that he shall confess that he has sinned in that thing.”

Scriptures

7. Is there a place for confession among believers?

James 5:16 (NKJV). “Confess *your trespasses* to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

Scriptures

8. Is there an appropriate time for public confession?

Acts 19:18 (NKJV). “And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds.”

Scriptures

9. What must accompany the forgiveness of sins?

Ezekiel 33:15, 16 (NKJV). “¹⁵ *If the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he had stolen, and walks in the statutes of life without committing iniquity; he shall surely live; he shall not die.*

¹⁶ *None of his sins which he has committed shall be remembered against him; he has done what is lawful and right; he shall surely live.”*

Scriptures

10. What direction is given regarding confession of sin?

Numbers 5:5-7 (NKJV). “⁵ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ⁶ Speak to the children of Israel: When a man or woman commits any sin that men commit in unfaithfulness against the LORD, and that person is guilty.

⁷ then he shall confess the sin which he has committed. He shall make restitution for his trespass in full, plus one-fifth of it, and give *it* to the one he has wronged.”

Scriptures

11. Should we pray for others who sin?

Daniel 9:20 (NKJV). “Now while I *was* speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God,”

Scriptures

12. What attitude must we have for God to forgive our sins?

Matthew 6:14, 15 (NKJV). “¹⁴ For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

Scriptures

13. What was David's attitude regarding forgiveness?

Psalm 51:1-4, 10, 11 (NKJV). “¹ Have mercy upon me, O God,

According to Your lovingkindness;

According to the multitude of Your tender mercies,
blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
And cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I acknowledge my transgressions.

And my sin *is* always before me.

⁴ Against You, You only, have I sinned,

And done *this* evil in Your sight—

That You may be found just when You speak.

And blameless when You judge. . . .”

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,

And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence,

And do not take Your Holy spirit from me.”

Study Questions

Study Questions

1. Describe the conditions of obtaining God's mercy?
(Paragraph 2).

“He that confesses and forsakes his sin shall have mercy.”

Study Questions

2. To whom do we confess our sins and our faults?
(3).

“Confess your sins to God, who only can forgive them, and your faults to one another.”

Study Questions

3. From who do we seek forgiveness first, God or others? (3).

“If you have given offence to your friend or neighbour, you are to acknowledge your wrong, and it is his duty freely to forgive you. Then you are to seek the forgiveness of God, . . .”

Study Questions

4. Who have not fulfilled the first condition of acceptance? (4).

“Those who have not humbled their souls before God in acknowledging their guilt, have not yet fulfilled the first condition of acceptance.”

Study Questions

5. What is the only reason we do not have remission of sins? (4).

“The only reason why we do not have remission of sins that are past is that we are not willing to humble our hearts and comply with the conditions of the word of truth.”

Study Questions

6. What should describe our confession of sin? (4).

“Confession of sin, whether public or private, should be heartfelt and freely expressed.”

Study Questions

7. To whom do we confess our sins? (5).

“They may be of such a nature as to be brought before God only; they may be wrongs that should be confessed to individuals who have suffered injury through them; or they may be of a public character, and should then be as publicly confessed.”

Study Questions

8. How specific and to the point should our confession be? (5).

“True confession is always of a specific character, and acknowledges particular sins. . . . But all confession should be definite and to the point, acknowledging the very sins of which you are guilty.”

Study Questions

9. What makes confession acceptable to God? (7).

“Confession will not be acceptable to God without sincere repentance and reformation. There must be decided changes in the life; everything offensive to God must be put away.”

Study Questions

10. What must you do in order to not remain blind to your sin? (8).

“ . . . And unless he yields to the convicting power of the Holy Spirit he remains in partial blindness to his sin.”

Study Questions

11. Describe the confession of someone blind to their sins? (8).

“His confessions are not sincere and in earnest. To every acknowledgement of his guilt he adds an apology in excuse of his course, declaring that if it had not been for certain circumstances he would not have done this or that for which he is reproved.”

Study Questions

12. What spirit originated with Satan? (9).

“The spirit of self-justification originated in the father of lies and has been exhibited by all the sons and daughters of Adam.”

Study Questions

13. What does true repentance do? (9).

“True repentance will lead a man to bear his guilt himself and acknowledge it without deception or hypocrisy.”

Study Questions

14. What will not be part of genuine confession? (10).

“The examples in God’s word of genuine repentance and humiliation reveal a spirit of confession in which there is no excuse for sin or attempt at self-justification.”

Study Questions

15. How will the sinner bring his sins before God?
(11).

“ . . . as a son confesses to a loving father, so will the truly penitent bring all his sins before God.”

Thought Questions

Thought Questions

1. How many times should I confess the same sin?

Thought Questions

2. What should I confess only to God?

Thought Questions

3. What does confession do for the person confessing?

Thought Questions

4. How specific is specific confession?

Thought Questions

5. Why is it so difficult to tell others that I am sorry?

Thought Questions

6. What if others do not receive your confession?

Thought Questions

7. Is there a time when confession would not be appropriate?

Thought Questions

8. Is it necessary to speak my confession out loud?

Thought Questions

9. What should I say in my confession?

Thought Questions

10. Should I confess when the other person was really at fault?

Thought Questions

11. What if I know the other person will use my confession to try and injure me; should I just confess to God only?

Thought Questions

12. How should I handle my child when I know they have done something wrong and are trying to hide it?

Thought Questions

13. Someone injured me greatly, and then came and confessed to me. How can I handle my bad feeling towards them?

Thought Questions

14. Should an explanation ever accompany confession?

Thought Questions

15. How much should I say about others in my confession?

Thought Questions

16. What does confession do for ME?

Thought Questions

17. Should I stop confessing until I gain victory over the sin?

Thought Questions

18. I confessed, but I still feel guilty. Should I confess again?

Thought Questions

19. Should I tell my husband/wife about an affair I had ten years ago? I just need to get this off my back.

Thought Questions

20. [Add your questions]

Problem Solving

Problem Solving

The following lady is now 35 years old, having become a Christian at 26. While in college, at 22 years of age, she had an abortion. She was unmarried at the time, but later married another Christian man who was not the father of her child. She has told no one, not even her husband. She has frequent moments of severe depression, feeling that she has killed her baby, but is afraid to tell her husband for fear that he might leave her.

Her spiritual life has disappeared as a result of the guilt, and it seems there is no way to ever remedy the situation. Satan is constantly attacking her, telling her that she has committed the unpardonable sin. What advice would you give to this woman for her spiritual problem?

Notes: You might work with the following information: causes, options, solutions, decisions, scriptures that apply.

Additional Exercises

Additional Exercises

1. Add three more items to your “Appreciation List.”

Additional Exercises

2. Additional Reading:

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pp. 635-641.

“Acceptable Confession.”

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pp. 642-650.

“Erroneous Ideas of Confession.”

Additional Exercises

3. Study God's plan for restoring relationships from Matthew 18.

Additional Exercises

4. Study what things should be confessed to others and what things should be confessed only to God.”
Others:

Only to God:

Additional Exercises

5. Describe one example of how the information learned in this chapter can help YOU in YOUR daily Christian life.

Additional Exercises

6. Find at least one opportunity to explain what you have learned to one or more persons.

Ellen G. White Quotes

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 59

“If we have in any manner defrauded or injured our brother, we should make restitution. If we have unwittingly borne false witness, if we have misstated his words, if we have injured his influence in any way, we should go to the ones with whom we have conversed about him, and take back all our injurious misstatements.”

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 113

“Jesus teaches that we can receive forgiveness from God only as we forgive others. It is the love of God that draws us unto Him, and that love cannot touch our hearts without creating love for our brethren.”

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 114

“God’s forgiveness is not merely a judicial act by which He sets us free from condemnation. It is not only forgiveness *for* sin, but reclaiming *from* sin.”

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pp. 646, 7

“But the question of how and to whom sins should be confessed is one that demands careful, prayerful study. We must consider it from all points, weighing it before God and seeking divine illumination. We should inquire whether to confess publicly the sins of which we have been guilty will do good or harm.

Will it show forth the praises of Him who has called us out of the darkness into His marvelous light? Will it help to purify the minds of the people, or will the open relation of the deceptions practiced in denying the truth have an after influence to contaminate other minds and destroy confidence in us?."

Selected Messages, vol. 1, pp. 326, 327

“How mistaken are those who imagine that confession of sin will detract from their dignity, and lessen their influence among their fellow men. Clinging to this erroneous idea, though seeing their faults, many fail to confess them, but rather pass by the wrongs they have done others, so embittering their own lives, and shadowing the lives of others. It will not hurt your dignity to confess your sins.”

The Desire of Ages, p. 556

“If we have injured others through any unjust business transaction, if we have overreached in trade, or defrauded any man, even though it be within the pale of the law, we should confess our wrong, and make restitution as far as lies in our power. It is right for us to restore not only that which we have taken, but all that it would have accumulated if put to a right and wise use during the time it has been in our possession.”

*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, pp.
113, 114*

“We should not think that unless those who have injured us confess the wrong we are justified in withholding from them our forgiveness. It is their part, no doubt, to humble their hearts by repentance and confession; but we are to have a spirit of compassion toward those who have trespassed against us, whether or not they confess their faults.

However sorely they may have wounded us, we are not to cherish our grievances and sympathize with ourselves over our injuries; but as we hope to be pardoned for our offenses against God we are to pardon all who have done evil to us.”

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, pp. 336-7

“It is a close test upon the courage of men and women to be brought to face their own sins and to frankly acknowledge them. To say, ‘That mistake must be charged to my account,’ requires a strength of inward principle that the world possesses in but a limited degree. But he who has the courage to say this in sincerity gains a decided victory over self and effectually closes the door against the enemy.”

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 251

“We are not forgiven *because* we forgive, but *as* we forgive. The ground of all forgiveness is found in the unmerited love of God, but by our attitude toward others we show whether we have made that love our own.”

Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 195

“God may and will forgive the repenting sinner, but though forgiven, the soul is marred; the power of the elevated thought possible to the unimpaired mind is destroyed. Through all time the soul bears the scars.”

The Desire of Ages, p. 37

“With intense interest the unfallen worlds had watched to see Jehovah arise, and sweep away the inhabitants of the earth. And if God should do this, Satan was ready to carry out his plan for securing to himself the allegiance of heavenly beings. He had declared that the principles of God’s government make forgiveness impossible.”

The Desire of Ages, p. 745

“That prayer of Christ for His enemies embraced the world. It took in every sinner that had lived or should live, from the beginning of the world to the end of time. Upon all rests the guilt of crucifying the Son of God. To all, forgiveness is freely offered. ‘Whosoever will’ may have peace with God, and inherit eternal life.”

Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 239

“Many a sin is left unconfessed, to be confronted in the day of final accounts; better far to see your sins now, to confess them, and put them away, while the atoning Sacrifice pleads in your behalf.”

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, p. 167

“The people of God must move understandingly. They should not be satisfied until every known sin is confessed; then it is their privilege and duty to believe that Jesus accepts them.”

The Great Controversy, p. 620

“So, in the time of trouble, if the people of God had unconfessed sins to appear before them while tortured with fear and anguish, they would be overwhelmed; despair would cut off their faith, and they could not have confidence to plead with God for deliverance. But while they have a deep sense of their unworthiness, they have no concealed wrongs to reveal.

Their sins have gone beforehand to judgment and have been blotted out, and they cannot bring them to remembrance.”

Quiz

Quiz

1. T F Confession should be specific. (Leviticus 5:5).
2. T F Hiding sins causes people not to prosper in their spiritual growth.
(Proverbs 28:13).
3. T F Each sin should always be confessed to God, whether confession to another person is needed or not. (Psalm 32:5).

Quiz

4. T F Public confession is sometimes appropriate. (Acts 19:18).
5. T F God needs for us to confess, so that He will know what we have done. (Hebrews 4:13).

Quiz

6. What must we do to others if we wish God to forgive our sins? (Matthew 6:14, 15 NKJV).

Forgive them.

Quiz

7. List one thing King David prayed for regarding his sin with Bathsheba. (Psalm 51:1-4, 11, 12 NKJV).

Blot out my transgressions.

Cleanse from sin.

Cast me not away from thy presence.

Take not the Holy Spirit from me.

Restore the joy of salvation.

Quiz

8. What two things will make confession acceptable with God. (SC 4.7).

Sincere repentance and reformation.

Quiz

9. If we confess our sins, what is God faithful and just to do?. (1 John 1:9 NKJV).

Forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Quiz

10. List one thing a person must do if they have taken something from someone. (Ezekiel 33:15 NKJV).

Restore the pledge, give back what he has taken, walk in the statutes of life without committing iniquity.

Quiz

11. Which of the following would be included in a confession by a person blind to their own sin? (SC 4:8).

- A. An excuse because of circumstances.
- B. Sincerity.
- C. A desire to make things right.
- D. An attempt to bear their guilt themselves.

Quiz

12. What should confession be like? (SC 4.4).
- A. Serious and forced by your conscience.
 - B. Hard to do and painful.
 - C. Easy to do and enjoyable.
 - D. Heartfelt and freely expressed.

Quiz

13. What will not be part of a genuine confession?
(SC 4.10)
- A. Sincerity.
 - B. A spirit of urgency and seriousness.
 - C. An attempt to reform.
 - D. An excuse for sin, or an attempt at self-justification.

Quiz

14. How does God pardon? (Isaiah 55:7 NKJV)

- A. Adequately
- B. Aggressively
- C. Abundantly
- D. Anxiously

Quiz

15. Complete the following:

“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.”
(SC 4:11).

Contact

- Author: Don Yancy
- Email: mail@bibleguides.org
- Phone: 562-208-4589