

Confession Is Hard

Ponder: Why don't we confess our sins?

Scripture: "Father, I have sinned against Heaven and in your sight" (Luke 15:21, NKJV).

Steve Urkel ("Family Matters") famously asked, "Did I do that?" He knew he did, but he didn't want to be blamed. Taking responsibility doesn't appeal to us.

"It's not my fault!" That line is as old as Eden. Adam, did you eat the fruit? Yes, but it's Eve's fault, and maybe God's fault for giving her to me. Well, how about it, Eve? Yes, I ate, but the devil made me do it (with apologies to Flip Wilson).

If I can't blame my sin on someone else, how about minimizing it? I made a mistake. I had a lapse in judgment. Yes, sin certainly is a mistake and demonstrates poor judgment; but it's still sin!

God chastened sinful Israel with eighteen years of oppression by the Ammonites. Finally, in Judges 10:10, they "cried out to the Lord, saying, 'We have sinned against You, because we have both forsaken our God and served the Baals!'" They didn't blame anyone else or minimize their sin. And they not only confessed having sinned, but specified what their sins were.

In Jesus' parable, the wasteful son returned to his father with a confession on his lips: "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight" (Luke 15:21). He didn't blame his worldly friends, or his older brother, or his father. He didn't water down what he had done. "I have sinned."

John wrote, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). The apostle leaves no room for denying responsibility or blaming others. And he doesn't say just to confess that you have sinned, but to confess your sins. God knows the specifics, but you need to say them.

Confession is hard. It's embarrassing. Our pride gets in the way. Let's humble ourselves, confess our sins to God, and receive the forgiveness and cleansing we so desperately need!

Hymn: "I Bring My Sins To Thee"

Prayer: Father, help us to put away our pride and confess our sins to You, knowing You are faithful and just to forgive and cleanse us. In Jesus' name, Amen.