

Confess & Repent

1. **Understanding of the law brings us to the knowledge that we need to repent. What is our commission today:**
 - A. **James 4:8**, "**Draw nigh to God**, and he will **draw nigh to you**. **Cleanse [your] hands, [ye] sinners**; and **purify [your] hearts**, [ye] double minded."
 - B. **Acts 2:38**, "Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins**, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

2. **What is repentance? Turning away from sin and serving God in obedience. 1 John 3:4.**
 - A. **Ezekiel 18:21-23**, "But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die."
 - B. **Acts 3:19**, "**Repent** ye therefore, and be converted, that your **sins may be blotted out**, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."
 - C. **John 5:14**, "Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: **sin no more**, lest a worse thing come unto thee."
 - D. **Hebrews 6:4-6**, "For [it is] impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, **If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance**; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put [him] to an open shame."
 - E. **Acts 17:30**, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent."
 - F. **Revelation 2:5**, "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."

So repentance is turning away from sin! What are we to do when we know that we have sinned other than to stop doing it? Confess....

3. **What is confession?**
 - A. **1 John 1:9-10**, "**If we confess our sins**, he is faithful and just to **forgive us [our] sins**, and to **cleanse us from all unrighteousness**. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."
 - B. **Jeremiah 31:33-34**, "But this [shall be] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I **will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more**."

4. **Who are we to confess our sins to:**
 - A. **Psalms 32:5** "I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will **confess my transgressions unto the LORD**; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah."
 - B. **Matthew 9:6** "But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house."
 - C. **James 5:16** "Confess [your] faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

5. **What will happen if we don't confess and turn away from sinning?**
 - A. **Luke 13:3** "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

6. **Is it God's will that we should perish? No.**
 - A. **2 Peter 3:9** "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

So, let us repent and confess our sins to God alone and if we have sinned against each other and offended each other, then we have to also go to that person and ask for forgiveness. And what are we to do if someone sinned against us or offend us? What is the Christian thing to do?

Luke 17:3-4, "Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him."