

CERTAIN ETERNITY



THE LETTER OF FIRST JOHN

Walking in the Light:

Light and Glory

Light and Life

Light and Holiness

Light and Truth

Light and Confession

1 John 1:5-10 “5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”



Confession

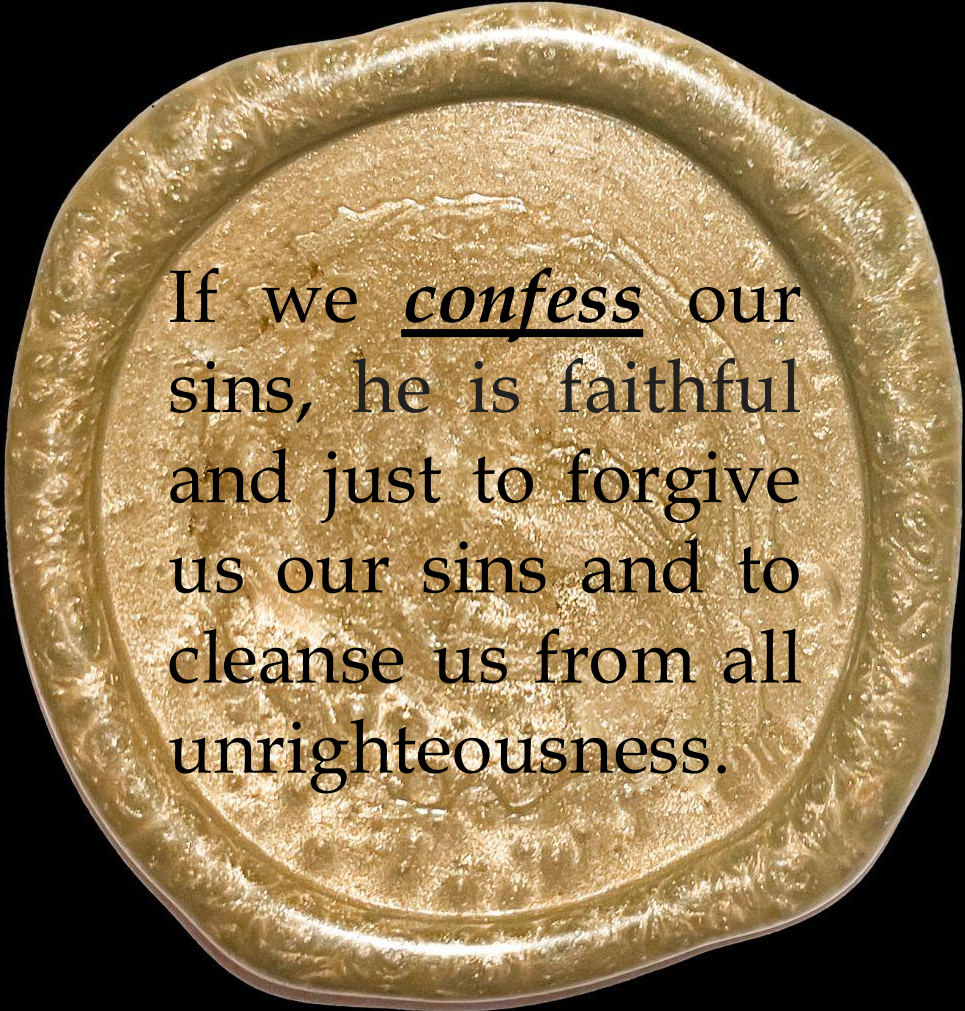
Gk: homologeō

To say the same thing as another

To agree with, assent, concede, profess what the other says is true

Psalm 14:1-3 “The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good. 2 The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. 3 They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.” (quoted in Romans 3:10-13)





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Acts 19:18-20 “18 Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. 19 And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.”

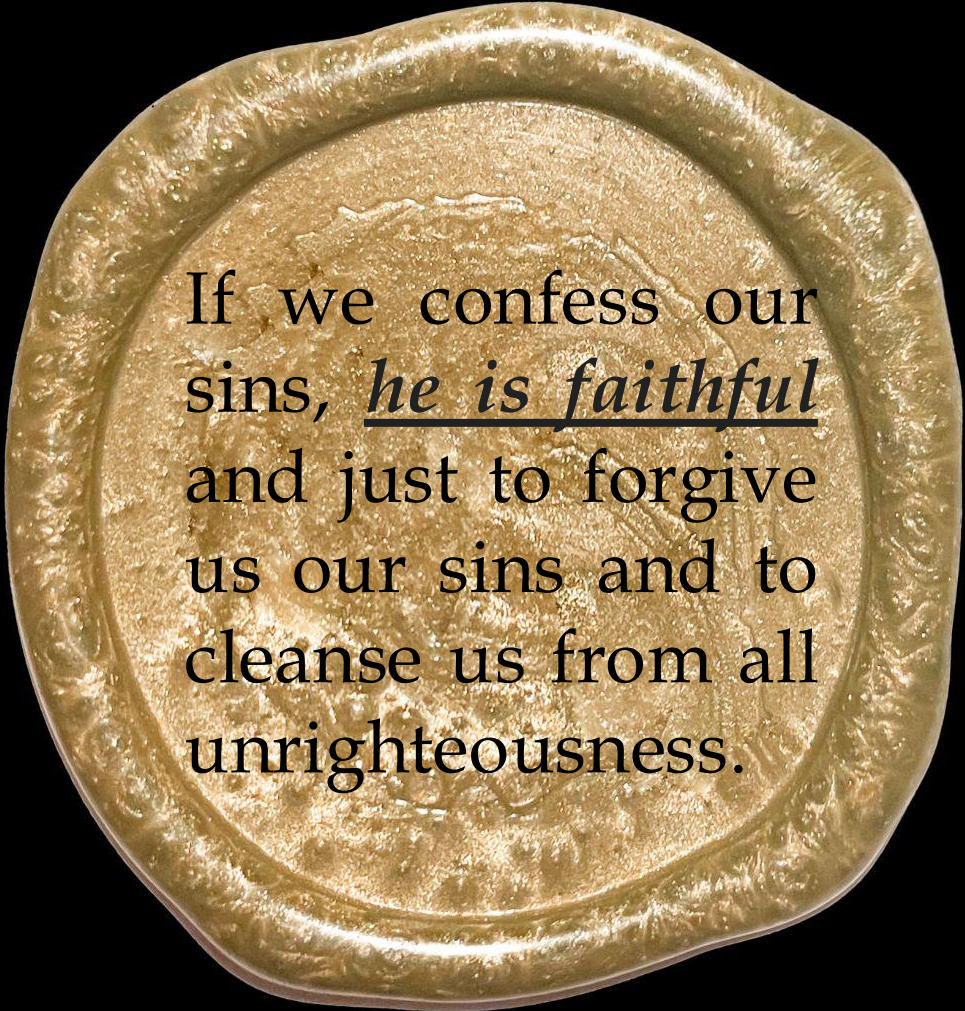


Confession is not praying a lovely prayer or making pious excuses, or trying to impress God and other Christians. True confession is naming sin – calling it by name that God calls it: envy, hatred, lust, deceit or whatever it may be. Confession simply means being honest with ourselves and with God; and others if they are involved too...True confession is the heart of repentance.

- Warren Wiersbe

2 Corinthians 7:9-11 “9 As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. 10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.”

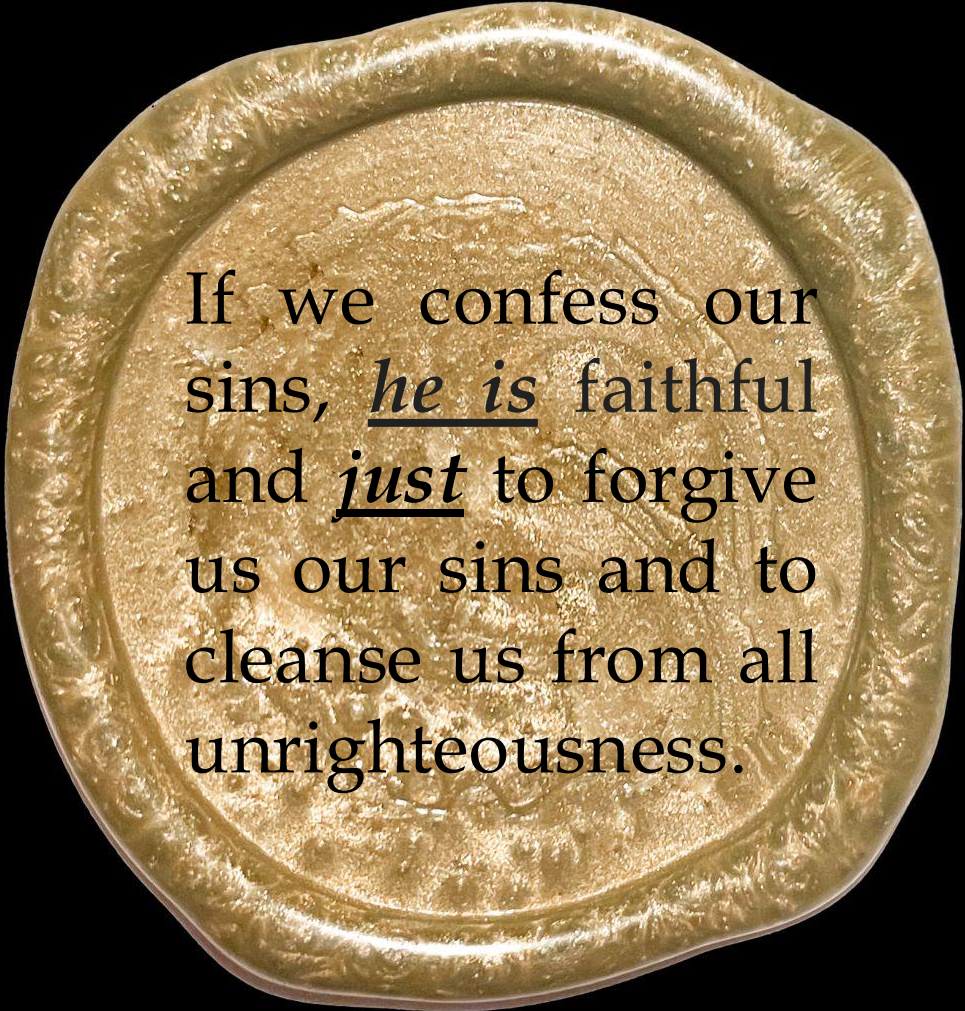




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Genesis 3:8-9 “8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?””



A circular gold seal with a textured, embossed border. The seal is set against a black background. The text is embossed in the center of the seal.

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Matthew 5:23-24 “23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”



Exodus 34:6-7 “6 The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty...”



Examine Yourself



Confess and Be Blessed



Psalm 32:1-4 “1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah”

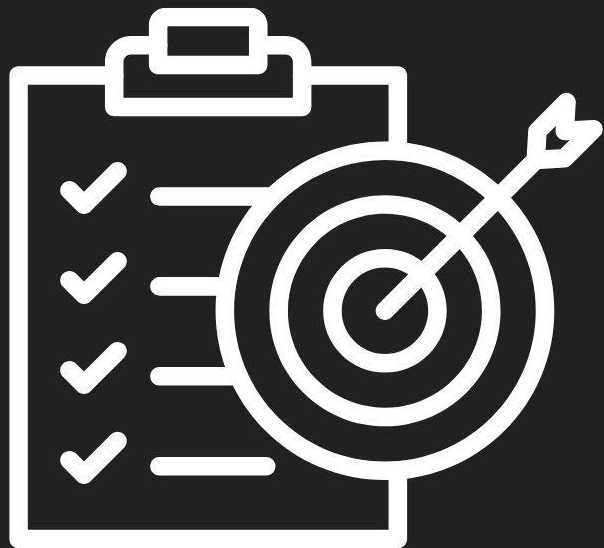


Proverbs 28:13 “Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.”



“...the gospel of free justification – that we are saved and accepted through Christ apart from any of our good works or efforts – changes the nature of repentance. When we forget the freeness of grace, the purpose of our repentance becomes the appeasement of God. When we aren’t sure that God loves us in Christ, then confession and repentance become a way of keeping on God’s good side with expressions of sorrow that we hope impress him with our sincerity and move him to take pity on us. If that is what repentance becomes, it is self-righteous and will be bitter all the way to the bottom. It will lead only to forced compliance of the will, not change of view, motivation, and heart.”

– Tim Keller



GOAL 1:

Know and Live
A Certain Eternity

(Over 30 evidences of a transformed heart!)

Matthew 5:3-7 “3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. 7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”



Confess and Pray



1 Timothy 2:5 “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”

James 5:16 “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”



“A man who confesses his sins in the presence of a brother knows that he is no longer alone with himself; he experiences the presence of God in the reality of the other person. As long as I am by myself in the confession of my sins everything remains in the dark, but in the presence of a brother the sin has to be brought into the light.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“The confession of bad works is the beginning of good works.”
- Augustine

“Anything that’s human is mentionable, and anything that is mentionable can be more manageable. When we can talk about our feelings, they become less overwhelming, less upsetting, and less scary. The people we trust with that important talk can help us know that we are not alone.”

- Mister Rogers

“It doesn’t mean you need to broadcast to the whole world your specific sins. That wouldn’t be good for them, and it wouldn’t be good for you. It does mean that you need to be known as an open book, appropriately read by accountable, mature people in your life. You’re not a secretive person, a hypocritical person. Ephesians 4:25 says, ‘Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.’

That’s going to include doctrinal truth, relational truth, truth about God, truth about others, truth about circumstances, and truth about our own souls. We are people of truth. That would be a foundational building block in the theology of relational confession.” –John Piper

Confess and Forgive



Matthew 6:9-15 “9 Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread, 12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. 14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”



“If anyone insists on his own goodness and despises others...let him look into himself when this petition confront him. He will find he is no better than others and that in the presence of God everyone must duck his head and come into the joy of forgiveness only through the low door of humility.” - Martin Luther

Colossians 3:12-14 “12 Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”



Confess and Worship



Psalm 32:5-11 *"5 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah 6 Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. 7 You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. Selah 8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. 9 Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you. 10 Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord. 11 Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!"*

