**Confessing Your Sins to One Another**

James 5:16; 1 John 1:9; Matt. 18:15-18

1. What is confession? (*ehomolegeo* Psa. 51:11; Matt. 11:25; Luke 22:6; Acts 19:18; Rom. 14:11; Phil. 2:11; *homolegeo* Rom. 10:9-10; Jer. 44:25; Matt. 14:7; John 1:20; 12:42; Acts 7:17; 23:8; 24:14; Tit. 1:16; Heb. 11:13; 13:15; 1 John 1:9; 4:2-3, 15)
   1. Admit that one has committed a crime or is at fault in some way
   2. Admit something reluctantly, typically because one feels slightly ashamed or embarrassed
   3. Open expression of what is in my heart: sin, praise, allegiance
2. What is "your sins"?
3. Biblical Dimensions of the Human Problem (Christopher Wright, "Atonement in the Old Testament," *The Atonement Debate*, 69-70)
4. A relationship that has been broken (Relational) Gen 2-3
5. The disturbance of *shalom* (Social) Gen 4-11
6. Rebellion against authority (Covenantal) Ex. 32-34
7. Guilt that necessitates punishment (Legal) Deut 32
8. Uncleanness and pollution (Ritual) Ezek. 4:12; 26:17-18
9. Shame and disgrace on oneself and/or God (Emotional) Jer. 6:15; Ezek. 36:16ff
10. An accumulating burden (Historical) Gen. 15:16; Deut. 9:4-6; 18:24-28
11. Death (Final) Gen. 5; Deut 30
12. Offenses done
13. By me
14. To me (2 Sam. 13:1-14)
15. In my presence that impact me (Num. 19:11-15)
16. Who is "one another"? (Neh 9; Dan. 9)
17. A Priest (1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10)
18. Trusted trustworthy Spirit filled friends
19. Why at are the benefits?
20. Sin becomes more real
21. Destroys strongholds
22. Becoming vulnerable builds genuine community
23. Unified prayer brings the grace to become changed

**The Art of Apology/Confession**

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|  | **Giving** | **Receiving** |
| **Bad** | I'm sorry if you were offended.  I'm sorry you feel that way.  I'm sorry you were hurt.  I'm sorry if I hurt you. | Don't worry about it. No big deal.  I do it all the time.  . . . <silence> . . .  OK. What did you think of the sermon? |
| **Good** | Acknowledge the hurt  Take responsibility for the hurtful act  Express remorse for hurting  Promise restitution and change  Offer touch | Acknowledge the hurt  Express gratitude  Accept the apology  Grant forgiveness  Offer touch |
| **Example** | That was a mean thing to say. I was way out of line. It hurts me that I hurt you. I'll work hard to say good things. | That did hurt me. Thank you for seeing that. I accept your apology. I forgive you. |

Ronald Cotton & Jennifer Thompson *Picking Cotton*,

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkBiaI9PSQU>