

## CONFESSING OUR SIN!

(Psalm 51:1-17; Matthew 18:15-17; 1 John 1:8-9; James 5:16)

### 1. A foundational reality about sin: Romans 3:9-23

Isaiah 5: 8-25 // Isaiah 6:1-8

### 2. First and foremost, let us FOCUS on dealing with OUR OWN sin:

**1 John 1:9:** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **James 5:16** Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. **Proverbs 28:13** Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy. **Psalms 32:5** 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 **Acts 19:18** Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. **Psalms 51:1-5** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,...

**Psalms 32:2-5** Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah 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

### 3. How WIDE should our confession be? Matthew 18:15-17

Why are **Matthew 18:15** and **Galatians 6:1** SO SELDOM HEEDED?

A SERIOUS SPIRITUAL AMBER ALERT: Prov. 16:2; Prov. 18:17; Prov. 21:2

**What about Matthew 5:23-24?** 1. Maybe 2. Probably not!

## **BACK TO MATTHEW 18:15-17 and HOW WIDE CONFESS:**

### **4. BEWARE OF DECEPTION BY COVER-UP!**

### **5. But what about 'love covering a multitude of sin?'**

6. James 5:16-- A VERY IMPORTANT REASON TO OPENLY CONFESS SIN IS **IN ORDER TO obtain the prayers of OTHERS on one's behalf**

7. HERE IS AN ADDITIONAL AND VERY POWERFUL REASON TO GIVE PUBLIC CONFESSSION FOR PUBLIC SIN— **SO AS TO GIVE a Godly DEMONSTRATION OF HOW CHRISTIANS are to DEAL WITH SIN!**

8. BY REPENTANCE AND CONFESSSION we destroy sin and satan's stronghold in our lives; and we are used to cause our brothers and sisters to FEAR... lest THEY also stumble into sin.

9. BY REPENTANCE AND CONFESSSION we destroy the gossip mills.

10. PUBLIC REPENTANCE and CONFESSSION WILL help both the repenting/confessing one and the ENTIRE church family to be reminded of how a public sin affects the church.

11. Furthermore, IF AN INDIVIDUAL in the church hides his/her public sin and the church HELPS him/her TO DO SO— WE ARE SENDING an added message to A LOST WORLD and to those presently in SECRET SIN IN THE CHURCH that IT IS OK for SIN to be covered up by deception and/or tolerated in the church and that the purity of the Bride of Christ IS A JOKE.

## **DEEP REMINDERS FROM DAVID ABOUT THE POWER OF HIDDEN SIN AND HOW TO BE SET FREE:**

*"When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer. 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." (Psalms 32:3-5).*

Since all sins are against God, the first and most important confession we need to make is to Him... followed by family and church family.

### **This is why we read in James:**

*"Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed..." (James 5:16).*

**KING DAVID:** Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; My eye wastes away with grief, Yes, my soul and my body! For my life is spent with grief, And my years with sighing; My strength fails because of my iniquity, And my bones waste away. Psalm 31:9-10 NKJV

### **David was a man who had secret sin. AFTER HE REPENTED, he talked about how that sin affected him when he kept it hidden.**

It actually caused physical and emotional sickness! David later decided to do the right thing by confessing his sin to God: 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. Selah Psalm 32:5 NKJV

**Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults.** Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression. Psalm 19:12-13 NKJV

THE BLESSED HOLY SPIRIT CAUSED (1) David's sin... to be made public; (2) Some of the consequence DAVID suffered; (3) and HIS REPENTANCE and CONFESSION— GOD CAUSED THESE TO BE BROUGHT INTO PUBLIC EYE FOR ALL TIME!

**GOD HAS USED THE PUBLIC NATURE OF ALL THIS— NOT TO HUMILIATE DAVID;  
BUT TO SHOUT THE STORY OF DELIVERANCE AND HOPE WHICH will also be ours  
when we deal with OUR public sin the way David did.**

And other fallen ones will take hope and be restored because you or I—  
repented and confessed and asked for forgiveness; and went forward to serve  
Christ with a restored heart!

**The way to start breaking free of secret sin's grip is to confess it to God and to  
fellow Christians:**

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 NKJV

Confession yields forgiveness and cleansing.

**When we confess to other Christians, we have additional doors of healing and  
forgiveness that are opened to us:**

<sup>16</sup>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. James 5:16 NIV.

