

Sunday, March 15, 2009—The World's Most Dangerous Doctrine—Total Forgiveness and the Confession of Sins

### **Introduction**

- This morning we are going to be looking a critical question, what should believers do when they sin?
- Is our fellowship with God broken when we sin? Do we need to confess our sins to restore fellowship with God and reopen the flow of God's blessings?
- Roman Catholics teach confession of sins to a priest as one of the sacraments that imparts Grace to the participant.
- Most Protestants reject the Catholic view in favor of the teaching that we should confess our sins directly to God.
- This is an issue that many Grace people are divided on, therefore it is of critical importance that we understand what the Bible teaches on the issue.

### **Confession of Sins in Time Past**

- When studying prayer last week we saw how God would not even hear their prayers when Israel had broken the covenant. We further saw that it was through repentance and confession of sins that God would hear from heaven.
- Leviticus 5:3-6, 16:21, 26:40—confession in the Hebrew means to throw, cast, to speak out, confess; to sing; to give thanks. Essentially, it is the acknowledgment of sin, man's character, or nature and work of God.
- Psalms 32:5—Individual Confession of Sins
- Daniel 9—Corporate Confession of sins for the entire nation of Israel.
- The Greek word translated confess or confession generally means to give assent or acknowledge. It also have both a positive and negative usage.
  - Positively it means to profess. Acknowledge positive statements about God. Romans 10:9-10
  - Negatively in means the acknowledgement of sin. Matthew 3:6

### **What Should You Do When You Sin?**

- As stated earlier, Raman Catholics teach that you need to confess your sins to a priest. This view is rejected by most evangelical Christians.

- However, many people think we need to confess our sins directly to God. Should we confess our sins today in the Dispensation of Grace?
- Ephesians 1:3-7—two of the spiritual blessings we have in Christ are redemption and the forgiveness of all our sins.
- God know what he was getting when he died for you.
- Ephesians 4:32—God has already forgiven us. What are you going to confess that you have not already been forgiven of.
- Colossians 1:14—We already possess the forgiveness of all our sins.
- Colossians 2:13—notice the past tense if you have trusted the shed blood of Jesus Christ as the only total and complete payment for your sins you have already been forgiven of all trespasses.
- God is satisfied with the death of his son why can't the church be? Why do we continue to feel like we need to help God out? It the religious flesh programming within humanity that thinks grace is to easy and their must be more to the story.
- Jesus Christ took care of everything that was wrong with us at the cross. We are the present possessors of the total and complete forgiveness of all our sins.

### **The Doctrine of Parental Forgiveness**

- I John 1:9—We should confess our sins because the Bible tells us to right.
- Many believers believe that the believer's relationship with God is eternal based upon the cross. However, sin in the life of the believer can cause a loss of fellowship with God.
- Therefore we need to be careful that we are not out of fellowship with God.
- Parental Forgiveness—placed into the family of God which you can never be taken out of; however, sin causes a break in your fellowship with God.
- Therefore, we need to confess our sins so that forgiveness can be granted and fellowship restored.
- Bad teaching about parenting—very legalist way of dealing with your kids. If my kids had to ask for my forgiveness every time they did something wrong I would never have fellowship with my sons.
- This teaching is a violation of every Pauline principal regard the forgiveness of sin and our complete and perfect standing in Jesus Christ.

### **Application of Parental Forgiveness**

- Does confession give you eternal life? NO
- Will continual daily confession of your sins lead to victory over sin in your life? No, all you are doing is fixating on the problem.
- Hebrews 10:1-4—This passage is talking about the sacrificial system under Israel's law.
- Hebrews 10:3—They had to bring the sacrifice every year as a reminder of the fact that they were sinners.
- The confession of sinners works the same way; it a daily reminder of the fact that I'm a sinner. Under the common teaching on the confession of sins you are always looking at yourself to gauge how you are doing with God.
- If you focus is on you and your sin and making sure all of your sins are confess, which is impossible anyway you will never have victory in the Christian life.
- I Corinthians 1:9—Our fellowship is not based upon anything we do. Rather it is based upon the faithfulness of God.
- I Corinthians 1:30—We are all of these things because we are in Christ.
- I Corinthians 6:11—Paul never talks about believers being sinners but saints. Saints because they are in Christ.
- We need to view ourselves that same way God does.
  - Saved—from eternal punishment
  - Forgiven—forgiven of all our sin
  - Justified—possessor of God's very righteousness
  - Indwelt and Sealed—by the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption
  - Complete—perfect and complete lacking nothing
  - Seated—with Christ in the heavenly places
  - Joint Heir—all that is Christ's is ours
  - More Than Conquerors
- Galatians 3:27—we have been suited up in Christ. When he looks down at us from heaven he doesn't see Bryan Ross and his sin he she his Son Jesus Christ.
- Believers need to stop focuses on the problem and start applying the solution.
- What should you do when you sin? Grace It! Apply the cross and move on.

- You can confess your sins until the cows come home and never experience victory over sin. Why because the keeping of legalistic short accounts with God is not God's solution.
- Titus 2:11-13—Once we got saved we were all exposed to teaching about how to live the Christian life. The problem is that such teaching often puts believers who have been saved by grace under a system of legalism for walking a Godly walk.
- Titus 2:13—what is it that teaches us how to live a righteous and God life? The grace of God.

### **Conclusion**

- This is why we call ourselves Grace Life Bible Church. Grace is not just a set of doctrines to be believed, a method of Bible study, or a set of mental gymnastics we play with the Bible.
- Rather grace is a lifestyle a way of life. Simply its real life.