

“Coming Clean Within Grace that Abounds!”

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Well, here we are as the children of God, holy through the waters of Baptism and the grace-filled sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. Unfortunately, because of our sinful nature and Satan’s presence, we continually turn against God’s Will and turn away from Him. So, let me ask, *“Do you have something you need to confess today?”*

Since we’re talking about confessing and coming clean, what exactly is confession? Open to Luke 15. In the Parable of the Prodigal Son, we see a young man who went against his father and struck out on his own and everything was going super as long as the money held out! When it did run out, his friends left too and he realized his sin.

This story points out the first step in confession: **Agreeing with God about our sin!** This young man knew he had done something wrong and felt he was an outcast even in his own family. Look at this realization in verses 18-19, *“I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’”*

Because of this realization of our sin and guilt for going against God, if He left us there, we would have no hope! But **we do have hope because we trust God’s grace covers our wrongs!** Listen to Max’s words on this, *“Confession is a radical reliance on grace. A proclamation of our trust in God’s goodness. ‘What I did was bad,’ we acknowledge, ‘but Your grace is greater than my sin, so I confess it.’”*

As Isaiah realized his own sin, he also realized how Jesus covered him in His robes of righteousness. Listen to Isaiah 61:10, *“I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness.”*

Turn to Genesis 3. Confession is coming before God admitting our sin, seeking His grace and mercy, but it **isn’t pointing fingers and placing blame on someone else!** Look at the exchange between God, Adam, and Eve. Verses 9-13, *“But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ And he said, ‘I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.’ He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’ The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate. Then the LORD God said to the woman, ‘What is this that you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’”* Isn’t it interesting that even with the first people on earth, they knew how to blame someone else when they got in trouble!

So why is confession so important? Unconfessed sin can cause pain. One of the best examples of this was King David. David had wandering eyes, committed adultery with Bathsheba, and had her husband killed! Look at Psalm 38. David thought this was a secret sin, but he was king so word got out!

But David seemed to feel he was above the Law, but by him not admitting his guilt, caused him great pain and anxiety! Look at verses 4-8, *“For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me. My wounds stink and fester because of my foolishness, I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning. For my sides are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am feeble and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart.”*

Because of his sin, David was brought low! Max said this, *“bury misbehavior and expect pain, period. Unconfessed sin is a knife blade lodged in the soul. You cannot escape the misery it creates!”*

When David was confronted with his sin and he confessed it, he found that **confession allows healing.** Psalm 51 is a wonderful example of this realization and his

prayer to God for renewal and refreshment. Listen to verses 10-11, *“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.”*

When we're open to confess our sins to God, we receive His mercy and grace. Listen to Psalm 51:1-2, *“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!”* When we confess our sins here in worship, we're admitting to each other we haven't been perfect and are in need of forgiveness from God and each other!

Open to Romans 5. Another **result of confession is restored relationships**. This restoration not only effects our relationship to God but also to each other! Look at verses 10-11, *“For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”*

It's in this restoration with God and each other, we see God's mighty power! He's never left us and continues to love us no matter what! But we also see this power as we see it displayed in fellow believers! Confession with restoration is a wonderful thing!

Listen to Max's thoughts as he closes his thoughts on coming clean, *“Tell God what you did. It's not that He doesn't already know, but the two of you need to agree. Spend as much time as you need. Share all the details you can. Then let the pure water of grace flow over your mistakes!”* Celebrate this grace!