

THE CONFESSIONS OF SINS -- PUBLIC AND PRIVATE

INTRODUCTION:

1. In this lesson we are studying the sins that we commit after we become children of God.
2. We want to study HOW these sins are to be corrected.
3. We all sin after we become Christians, not because we have to sin, but because of weakness and ignorance, and sometimes willfully.
4. I John 1: 8, 10; I John 2: 1 - 2; Heb. 10:26
5. Some of the sins we commit are PRIVATE IN NATURE.
 - (1) By private, we mean that they are known to us and God alone, or to a limited number of persons -- they are secret sins, NOT PUBLIC SINS.
6. Some of the sins we commit are PUBLIC SINS.
 - (1) By public, we mean that they are known to almost everybody; they are open to the people; they are in open view.
7. We all recognize these two ways of sinning.
8. We may have been a Christian a number of years and not made a public confession of sins.
 - (1) The fact that we have made no public correction of sins does not mean that we have not sinned.

I. WE ALL HAVE SINNED FROM TIME TO TIME, BUT THE SINS HAVE BEEN PRIVATE IN NATURE -- (Talking about those who have not made public confession.)

1. Some of the sins have been committed in the HEART, and known only to God and the individual who committed the sin -- I John 3:15; Matt. 5: 28; Mk. 7: 20 - 23
 - (1) God knows all our sins -- Heb. 4: 13; Ps. 69: 5
2. Some of the sins have been committed in the family relationship.
 - (1) Between husband and wife -- Col. 3:19; I Cor. 7: 2 - 5
 - (2) Between Father, Mother, and children -- Eph. 6: 1 - 4
 - (3) These sins are known only to God and a limited number of persons -- they are private, or secret sins.
 - a. Joseph's brethren -- Gen. 50: 15 - 21
 - (4) They have been corrected privately -- Lk. 17: 3 -4; Col. 3: 13; Eph. 4:32
3. Some of the sins have been committed between only two people -- these are private or secret sins -- Matt. 18: 15 - 17; James 5:16

II. THE WORD OF GOD RECOGNIZES THAT MEN COMMIT SIN SECRETLY AND PUBLICLY

1. The sin of David with Bathsheba was committed in secret -- II Sam. 12: 12; Psa. 19:12
 - (1) When Bathsheba realized that she was with child, she sent and told David -- II Sam. 11: 5
 - (2) Instead of repenting of his sin, and correcting it, he sought to cover it up.
 - (3) Some months passed, and the child was born before Nathan the prophet rebuked David--and he repented -- II Sam. 12:12 - 13; Psa. 32: 1 - 5; Psa. 51: 1 - 12
2. Psa. 90:8 "*Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sin in the light of thy countenance*"...
3. The secret sins will be brought into Judgment -- Eccl. 12:14; Rom. 2: 16; I Tim. 5:24
4. Public Sin: I Tim. 5:24
 - (1) Some examples:
 - a. Members indulging in drunkenness -- Gal. 5: 19 - 21
 - b. Immoral practices done openly -- mixed swimming, dancing, etc.
 - c. Lascivious behavior and dress -- I Tim. 2: 9 - 10
 - d. Members who engage in contention and strife -- James 3:16
 - e. Members who forsake the public worship, the assemblies of the church -- Heb. 10:25
5. Public sin brings shame upon the one doing the sinning and injury to the church -- II Sam. 12:14; I Tim. 5:14
6. The only way to correct public sin, and the injury done to the cause of Christ, is to publicly confess the sin, and pray to God for forgiveness -- I John 1:9; Acts 8:22; James 5:16

II. HOW THE CHILD OF GOD CORRECTS HIS SINS, WHETHER THEY BE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE

1. He must repent of his sins -- Acts 8:22; Lk. 17: 3 - 4
2. What does repentance involve?
 - (1) A change of mind -- Matt. 21: 28 - 29
 - (2) When a man repents, he forsakes his wicked ways -- Isa. 55:7
 - (3) The drunkard quits drinking.
 - (4) The liar quits lying.
 - (5) The fornicator quits his fornication.
3. One who repents brings forth fruits meet for repentance -- Matt. 3:8
4. He must confess his sins to God -- I John 1:9
 - (1) One must confess what he is guilty of -- Psa. 32:5

5. He must confess his sins to the one, or ones, he has sinned against -- James 5: 16; Matt. 5:23 - 24; Matt. 18:15; Lk. 17: 3 - 4
6. If one has sinned publicly, he needs to confess it to the church -- his sin has done damage to all of God's people -- I Cor. 10:32
7. One must pray, asking God and all he has sinned against to forgive him -- Acts 8:22; James 5:16; I John 5:16

IV. THINGS THAT DO NOT CORRECT SIN WITH GOD OR MAN

1. Denial of sin will not correct it -- I John 1: 8 - 10
2. Concealment of sin will not correct it -- one cannot conceal sin from God -- Heb. 4: 13; Psa. 69: 5; Psa. 139: 2
3. Refusal to think about sin will not correct it. Some say, "I have sinned, but I will forget about it."
 - (1) David could not forget about his sin -- Psa. 51:3
 - (2) Man may be able to forget, but God does not forget -- II Cor. 5: 10
4. Distance will not correct sin
 - (1) Sometimes men try to run away from their sins.
 - (2) Wherever they go, they are still guilty.
5. Good deeds will not correct sin.
 - (1) Some say, "I will quit sinning and start doing good."
 - (2) This will not cover sin -- James 5: 19 - 20

CONCLUSION:

1. The only way man can correct his sins is upon God's terms.
2. The plan of salvation for the alien sinner's forgiveness today is:
 - (1) Hear -- Rom. 10:17
 - (2) Believe -- Mark 16:16
 - (3) Repent -- Acts 2:38
 - (4) Confess Christ -- Acts 8:37
 - (5) Be Baptized-- Acts 22:16
3. God's plan for the Child of God who has sinned:
 - (1) Repent -- Acts 8:22
 - (2) Confession of sins -- I John 1:9
 - (3) Prayer