**GETTING IT RIGHT**



Confession of Sins / Repentance – When is it necessary?

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**Forgiveness**

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(Rom 10:9-10)

So, believing in both the Old Covenant and the New Covenant results in salvation and righteousness.

So, what then, is the role of forgiveness? If in both the Old Covenant and the New Covenant you are saved and declared righteous by believing, what is the purpose of forgiveness?

How are sins forgiven in the Old Covenant?

Sins are forgiven by the shedding of the blood of a specific animal for each sin.

Lev 5:1-10

1 'Now if a person sins after he hears a public adjuration to testify when he is a witness, whether he has seen or otherwise known, if he does not tell it, then he will bear his guilt.

2 'Or if a person touches any unclean thing, whether a carcass of an unclean beast or the carcass of unclean cattle or a carcass of unclean swarming things, though it is hidden from him and he is unclean, then he will be guilty.

3 'Or if he touches human uncleanness, of whatever sort his uncleanness may be with which he becomes unclean, and it is hidden from him, and then he comes to know it, he will be guilty.

4 'Or if a person swears thoughtlessly with his lips to do evil or to do good, in whatever matter a man may speak thoughtlessly with an oath, and it is hidden from him, and then he comes to know it, he will be guilty in one of these.

5 'So it shall be when he becomes guilty in one of these, that he shall confess that in which he has sinned.

6 'He shall also bring his guilt offering to the Lord for his sin which he has committed, a female from the flock, a lamb or a goat as a sin offering. So the priest shall make **atonement** on his behalf for his sin.

7 'But if he cannot afford a lamb, then he shall bring to the Lord his guilt offering for that in which he has sinned, two turtledoves or two young pigeons, one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering.

8 'He shall bring them to the priest, who shall offer first that which is for the sin offering and shall nip its head at the front of its neck, but he shall not sever it.

9 'He shall also sprinkle some of the blood of the sin offering on the side of the altar, while the rest of the blood shall be drained out at the base of the altar: it is a sin offering.

10 'The second he shall then prepare as a burnt offering according to the ordinance. So the priest shall make **atonement** on his behalf for his sin which he has committed, and **it will be forgiven him**.

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Sin broke the relationship or the fellowship between the Old Covenant believer and God and by bringing the proper animal to the priest and allowing the priest to shed the blood of this animal, the priest re-established the relationship or the fellowship between God and the sinner.

So, what is the purpose of the forgiveness of sins in the Old Covenant?

**The purpose of the forgiveness of sin in the Old Covenant was to restore the relationship or the fellowship between the sinner and God**.

What was involved?

1. Disobedience to God’s commands
2. That disobedience results in being guilty of sin
3. That sin results in the breakdown of the fellowship between God and the sinner
4. The sinner must bring the proper animal to the temple
5. The sinner must confess his sin to the priest
6. In the temple the priest sacrifices the animal and sheds its blood on the altar
7. This shedding of blood re-establishes fellowship between God and the sinner and it is the priest that actually makes the atonement for that person.

All of this is specifically Old Covenant.

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Acts 10:43

"Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who **believes** in Him receives **forgiveness of sins**."

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Acts 13:38-39

"Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him **forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you**, 39 and through Him **everyone who believes is freed from all things**, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.

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**In the New Covenant, sin does not break the relationship between God and the believer.**

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(Eph 5:6-8)

**Repent/Repentance**

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(Ezek 18:30, Matt 4:17, Mark 1:14-15, Acts 26:19-20)

**Repentance**

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(Luke 5:32, Luke 15:7, Luke 24:46-47)

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(Rom 2:4-52, Peter 3:9, 2 Cor 7:9-10)

**Confess/Confession**

**Confession**

Ezra 10:1 - Ezra was praying and making confession

Ezra 10:11 - make confession to the Lord

2 Cor. 9:13 – the believers will glorify God for their obedience to their confession of the gospel of Christ.

1 Tim 3:16 – by common confession, great is the mystery of godliness

1 Tim 6:12 – making a confession of faith

1 Tim 6:13 – Jesus’ confession before Pilate

Heb. 3:1, 4:14 – confession of faith

Heb. 10:23 – Let us hold fast the confession of our hope.

**Confess**

Lev. 5:5, 16:21, 26:40, Numbers 5:7 – Confess their sins

1 Kings 8:33, 35, 2 Chron. 6:24, 26 – The kings are to return to the Lord by confessing His name

Job 40:14 - God is speaking, God confessing to Job

Ps 32:15 – Confess my transgression to the Lord

Ps 38:13 – Confess my iniquity

Isa 26:13 Confess the name of the Lord

Mt 10:32, Luke 12:8 – If you confess Me before men, I will confess you before my Father

Rom 10:9 – If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead then you will be saved.

Phil. 2:11 – Every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord

James 5:16 – Confess your sins to one another for the physical healing from illness

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, then He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness

1 John 4:3 – Every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from the Lord

Rev 3:5 – If your name is found in the Book of Life then Jesus will confess your name before the Father.

The word confession and the word confess as used in the New Testament refers to confessing Jesus as Lord. Never do we see any verse in the New Testament suggesting that a believer confess his sin.

**But what about 1 John 1:9?**

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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1John 1:9 cannot possibly be about believers.

1. Nowhere in the bible do we find any verses suggesting that a believer must continue to confess his sins in order to receive forgiveness. There simply are no verses that teach this concept.
2. The term “confession’ is never used in the context of the act of confessing sins. The term confession is always about the confession of your faith.
3. There are no verses that suggest that your fellowship with God is broken because of sin.
4. The biggest issue with 1John 1:9 is the issue of righteousness. A believer does not lose his righteousness when he sins. Righteousness comes from believing. Sin does not result in the loss of righteousness. If 1John 1:9 was written about believers it would mean that a believer lost his righteousness when he sinned and requires to have his righteousness restored through the act of confessing his sins. This simply cannot be the case since a believer is righteous as a result of believing. His righteousness remains, even if he sins.

**Righteousness**

Rom 10:9-10

9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

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If a “believer” cannot lose his righteousness then why would he need to be cleansed of all of his unrighteousness?

The only time that a person is cleansed of all of his unrighteousness is when, as a non-believer, he admits that he is a sinner and receives the gospel. From that point on he is a believer and as long as he continues to believe the gospel, he can never lose his righteousness.

Sin does not cause a believer to lose his righteousness.

1 John 1:9 is about a group of non-believers that claim that they don’t need the gospel because they have no sin. This, of course, is ridiculous because all have sinned and fallen short of the gory of God. John tells them that if they claim that they have no sin then they are making God a liar since God sent His Son to die for their sin.

John says that the solution to their problem is to recognize that they indeed have sinned and if they will confess their sin, then Jesus is faithful and righteous to forgive them of their sin and the cleanse them from all of their unrighteousness.

1John 1:9 is not about a believer and should never be applied to believers. 1John 1:9 is a prescription for how a non-believer becomes a believer. If the non-believer will confess his sins, Jesus is faithful to forgive the non-believer of all of his sins and Jesus will cleanse him of all of his unrighteousness.

Applying 1 John 1:9 to the church is false teaching and does not align with what the bible teaches about righteousness, blamelessness and justification of the believer. The believer is NEVER instructed to continue to confess his sins in the New Covenant.

**Fellowship**

**Does the bible teach that a believer can lose fellowship with God because of sin?**

Ps 55:14 – We had fellowship together

Acts 2:42 – Believers devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to fellowship

1 Cor. 1:9 – God called you into fellowship with His Son

2 Cor. 6:14 – What fellowship does light have with darkness?

2 Cor. 13:4 – Salvation regarding the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

Gal. 2:9 – Fellowship Paul had with Peter, James and John

Phil. 2:1 – Fellowship of the Holy Spirit

Phil. 3:10 - Fellowship of the sufferings of Jesus

Philemon 6 – Fellowship of your faith

1 John 1:3, 6, 7 – Fellowship with us, fellowship with the Father, fellowship with Jesus and fellowship with one another.

Never once does the bible discuss broken fellowship with God.

As a result, there are no discussions anywhere in the New Testament that suggest that a believer can lose fellowship with God because of sin.

**Atonement**

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Atonement is never necessary in the New Covenant because fellowship is never broken between the New Covenant believer and God.

**Holy Spirit**

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(Ps 51:10-11, Judg 16:20, John 14:16-17, 1 Cor 6:19)

The bible does not support the idea that the New Covenant believer can lose the Holy Spirit. That is completely an Old Covenant issue.

**Does the Holy Spirit Convict the New Covenant Believer of Sin?**

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(John 16:7-9)

The Holy Spirit does not convict the New Covenant believer of sin because there is no sin to convict you of. That sin was paid for following the cross when Jesus paid the penalty of sin in hell.

**Guilt/Guilty**

**Guilt**

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The word guilt is never used to refer to a New Covenant believer.

**Guilty**

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(Mark 3:28-29, 1 Cor 11:27-28)

Never once, does the New Testament express that a New Covenant believer is ever guilty of sin.

In the New Covenant the believer is …….

* Never called to repent from his sin
* Never called to continue to confess his sin to receive forgiveness
* Obtains righteousness by believing
* Sin does not result in unrighteousness
* A believer never needs to be cleansed of unrighteousness, only a non-believer needs to be cleansed of unrighteousness
* There is never a need for atonement in the New Covenant because sin does not break your fellowship with God like it did in the Old Covenant
* The Holy Spirit will never leave you because of occasional sin. Although your occasional sin may make Him sad or “grieve” Him, He will never leave the New Covenant believer
* You are so completely forgiven and justified that the Holy Spirit can dwell in you as His temple.
* The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin. Nowhere in the New Covenant do we ever see that the Holy Spirit convicts a believer of sin. If you are justified, what sin is there for the Holy Spirit to convict you of?
* The New Covenant believer is never guilty of sin

These concepts are strictly Old Covenant and should never be applied to the New Covenant believer.

How did all of this change? What caused the changes that we see between the Old and New Covenants? The answer comes when we understand the penalty of sin….

**Penalty of Sin**

Did God forgive Adam and Eve of their sin? The answer is yes.

Adam and Eve sinned and tried to cover themselves with a covering of fig leaves.

That was an unacceptable covering for sin. So, God covered both Adam and Eve with a tunic of skin.

For God to be able to cover them with a tunic of animal skin, what had to have happened?

There had to be shedding of blood.

The shed blood provided for the forgiveness of Adam’s sin and restored Adam and Eve’s relationship with God.

God provided the Israelites with a system of obtaining the forgiveness of sins. This system of sacrificing an animal allowed for the forgiveness of their sins and the restoring of their relationship with God.

1. In the Old Covenant, sin breaks down the relationship between God and the sinner. But that can be resolved by shedding the blood of an animal. The sin is forgiven and the relationship with God is re-established (atonement).
2. Every sin carries with it a price that must be paid. Here’s the kicker, that price can only be paid for in hell.

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Rom 3:21-25

21 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; 25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, **because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed**; 26 for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

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(Col 2:13-14)

In the Old Covenant you were saved and considered righteous because of your belief.

You could receive forgiveness for your sins and re-establish your relationship with God by the shedding of the blood of sacrificial animals.

But the penalty for your sin was not yet paid. As a result, what happened to an Old Covenant believer when he died?

When the Old Covenant believer died, his soul went to Abraham’s Bosom. (Luke 16)

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Rom 8:1-4

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,

4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

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Jesus paid the penalty of your sin. The New Covenant is in the blood of Jesus. His blood sacrifice did for you what the blood of animals could never do.

Because of the blood of Jesus……………

* You never have to repent from sin
* You never have continue to confess your sin to receive forgiveness
* You are righteousness by believing
* Sin does not result in unrighteousness
* You never need to be cleansed of unrighteousness, only a non-believer needs to be cleansed of unrighteousness
* There is never a need for atonement because sin does not break your fellowship with God like it did in the Old Covenant
* The Holy Spirit will never leave you because of occasional sin. Although your occasional sin may make Him sad or “grieve” Him, He will never leave the New Covenant believer
* You are so completely forgiven and justified that the Holy Spirit can dwell in you as His temple.
* You are never guilty of sin
* When you die, you don’t go to Abraham’s Bosom, you go directly to heaven to be in the presence of God.
* You are justified and in the eyes of the Lord, you have fulfilled the Law to perfection.

