

Confession Unto Liberty

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The Word of God has spoken to us concerning the habitation of His Spirit to mold and shape us into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ. Where sin reigns the Spirit of God cannot. We said that true revival is simply a return of God's people to the obedience of His Word. Revelation is when we hear the Word of God and do it. Faith is the infusion of God's will into our lives. When we have chosen to surrender our thoughts, actions, attitudes, and responses to His way. Therefore, faith is obedience to what you say you believe. **I John 3:20-22** says, *“For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.”*

John states here that we are not condemned if we keep the commandments of God and live a life that continually desires to please Father. This is the result of an infused will. When the desire of your heart is to please God with all of your life; to live as He lives.

The Apostle Paul confirms this in **Romans 8:1-4**, *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For **the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.** For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That **the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us,** who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”*

There is no place for condemnation in the life that lives according to the Spirit and will of God. A life totally and consistently yielded to the will and Spirit of Father can walk in the fullness of Christ-likeness. But let sin in your life and there will dwell condemnation and all its many accomplices.

In the later, Paul states *“the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made you free from the law of sin and death.”* This is our focus in this message. **Commitment to one law which frees us from another. Obedience to one releases us from bondage of another.**

A law is defined as a an establish governing rule or a rule of natural phenomena. The first definition applies more to civil and self government. We, as a nation, identify and modify laws which govern us as a people. Then there are those rules, or lack thereof, by which people daily govern their lives. But the later definition is one most would call, but we refer to as, *transcendent law*. Some would call it the rules of “cause and effect”. God calls it the wages of sin and death as opposed blessing and life. He also refers to it as the law of sowing and reaping. How ever you choose to define it the results are the same. There is a way in which a man or woman lives that either brings life or death to themselves and those around them. We find that in Christ, God has established the law of true liberty. In this law are two rules that govern true freedom by the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. They are: **1. Confession** and **2. Forgiveness**. In this message we will look at the first of the two which is confession.

The two laws operate together to bring life and liberty. **True freedom only comes when there is real forgiveness. Forgiveness can only come when there is sincere confession.** The intent of law is to establish order that those who abide by such shall enjoy the fullness of freedom within the bounds of the law. Those who choose to violate the laws are to pay a price and either lose their liberties or pay restitution to the whole who are law abiding. Thus the second intent of the law is to restrain those who would choose to live in selfish rebellion against those very laws which in their original intent are to provide liberty and justice for all. However, when the motives of those laws are perverted by those who are to live by and uphold them, the law then becomes a chain around the neck of all those under its government and disorder and death abounds.

Un-confessed sin to the Christian is like this very chain of law. To the one who has accepted the liberty of Christ and professed to live according to the law of life in Christ Jesus, sin is a contradiction and violation of that very law of liberty whose intent is to bring freedom. The price of un-confessed sin is a life of condemnation that leads to death and destruction. The cost of restitution is very simple. It is the *denial of self-pride. It is a humble return to a contrite spirit in open confession to the love which first set you free.*

The Psalmist David shared it this way in **Ps. 32:1-6**, “*Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah. For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.*”

Note that when silent in his acknowledgment of His sin against God, it affected not only his spirit and soul but it began to affect his physical well being also. This is not to say that anyone who has health problems has un-confessed sin. No more than you judge a book by its cover. Nor is it to say that those who are healthy have no sin. It is to say that hidden sin comes at a price that may not even be evident to others around you. It is foremost death to your relationship with your creator, it is an inhibitor to His purposes in your life, and it is a chain about the neck of your soul. **When Adam sinned he did not catch a cold but he experienced a spiritual death in his eternal separation from His Father.** David says it well in **Psalms 41: 4** “*I said, LORD, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee.*”

One of the gravest travesties I have seen in the church is when someone sins against God, are welcomed back into the church with open arms as if nothing ever happened and never held accountable to confess before God that they had sinned against Him. It is not an issue of preserving their dignity. It is an issues of presenting before a jealous God the restitution of humility and brokenness for their sin to the broken heart of a loving, gracious and merciful God. **I speak of fruits of repentance.** It is like the leapers who were healed but never returned to simply say, Thank You.

David acknowledges that he had sinned against God and as a result his soul was in need of a great healing. He acknowledges that the only one who could heal his soul was the very one who created it, loved it the most, and the one he had most tragically sinned against.

Again, in **Psalms 32** David tells us that this is the prayer of “*every one that is godly*”. What prayer is he speaking of? He is speaking of the heart that cries, “*Lord God, I have hid myself in You and Your law in mine heart that I might not sin against Thee. And in so doing, I confess my wrong.*” **Our wrong is anything short of His right.** It is anything short of a life that is lived and in every way pleasing to Father.

In **3 John 2** the writer says, “*I would that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers.*” And in **Proverbs 28:13**, it is affirmed that “*He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.*”

Jesus made way for such liberty. He came to fulfill the law of liberty in Him. James gives us the first keys in learning to live the life of liberty in Christ Jesus, to walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit – (**James 5:16** *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*) Confess your sins **first to God** whom you have sinned against. Second, confess your sins to those whom God has given as the **Ecclesiastical hierarchy** in your process of discipleship. And third, **live a life of humility** before God. Live with a yielded will and an active righteousness that grows stronger in the Spirit of Christ-likeness daily. Daily be honest with yourself and God concerning those faults in you which are not pleasing and reflective of Christ-likeness. **If you live a life of profession, also live the life of confession.** In doing so, Father is faithful to forgive and remove all that is not like Him. **I 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.*” Thus your purpose for knowing and loving Him is not just fear of punishment or hope of reward, but a genuine desire to be like Father.