
Confession

- ACTS Model: _____, _____, _____, _____
 - The twofold role of this series:
 - *First*, to widen our prayer _____
 - The seven-day prayer pattern informed the content of our prayer, and through this series I want to inform the method of our prayer
 - *Second*, to use the ACTS acronym as a framework to walk through the _____ of prayer
- **Main Point:** In confession, we are _____ with what is true about ourselves so we can be _____ by what is true about our Savior.
 - Group Exercise: Practicing the Prayer of Adoration

What is Confession?

- 1 John 1:5-2:2
 - **Word Study:** ὁμολογῶμεν
 - **Word Study Definition:** Confession means _____ with and _____ of that which is true.
 - 1 John 1:9 (*Jake Standard Version*) – “If we align with and attest that which is true about our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
 - “We must lay before Him what is in us, not what ought to be in us.” – C. S. Lewis
 - In confession, we are aligned with what is true about ourselves *so we can be defined by what is true about our Savior.*

Why is Confession Important?

- Those most acquainted with their _____ most fully appreciate the _____.
 - “...I cannot receive healing unless I accept God’s diagnosis of my wounded state.... God already knows who we are; we are the ones who must find a way to come to terms with our truer selves.” – Philip Yancey
 - 1 John 1:9
- Christ, our Intercessor:

- 1 John 2:1-2 (see also Rom. 8:34)
 - “God’s covenant promises in Christ are the basis for our welcome into his presence and for our petitions for God to act in accordance with that promise, as well as the basis for our praise.” – Michael Horton

Four-Step Method for Prayer of Confession

- **First**, we pray that we might be _____.
 - Ps. 44:21
- **Second**, we acknowledge that we have _____ of the glory of God.
 - Rom. 7:24
 - *Misconception to Avoid:* _____-flagellation
 - Eph. 3:17-19
- **Third**, we _____.
 - Heb. 4:16; 1 John 1:9
 - *Misconception to Avoid:* Praying to God like a pagan does their idol.
 - “We most often begin by tackling prayer in the same way we have been taught to tackle every other problem – by hard work period we grit our teeth, intensify our willpower, and try, try, try. In reality this is a Pagan concept of prayer in which we roused the gods to action by our many incantations and vain repetitions” – Richard J. Foster
 - Perhaps our inability to receive God’s forgiveness is due to our inability to forgive _____.
- **Fourth**, we _____.
 - 1 John 2:1; John 8:10-11
- **Summation:** Our prayer of confession should contain _____ of our innermost self, _____ that we have failed, _____ of forgiveness given at the cost of the cross, and _____ to the imperative to “sin no more,” asking God for the strength to do so.