Repentance: Confronting Sin

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday March 14th, 2021

Text: James 5:16

### Intro

1. Have you ever done something stupid? Something sinful?
   1. After committing said stupid/embarrassing/sinful act, have you ever looked around to see if anyone saw?
   2. Even when we are satisfied that we got away with something, God sees (Heb. 4:12-13).
   3. When sinful, how do you act if someone saw or knew and confronted you?
2. Paul rebuked the Corinthian church for many errors *(A congregation needed Paul!):*
   1. They were quarreling and fighting amongst themselves – I Cor. 1
   2. They allowed an immoral man (he had taken his father’s wife) in their midst without correction – I Cor. 5
   3. They were taking each other to court – I Cor. 6
   4. They were abusing the Lord’s Supper – I Cor. 11
   5. They were fighting over who had the best spiritual gifts – I Cor. 12-14.
3. II Cor. 7:8-11: Paul wrote again and talked about the sorrow his first letter caused.
   1. Godly sorrow is different than the sorrow of the world.
   2. Godly sorrow produces repentance! *(They repented and became innocent!)*
   3. Worldly sorrow produces death!
   4. It was unpleasant for all involved but IT NEEDED TO BE DONE! *(Corinthian saints repented! – good came out of the sorrow)*
4. Repentance = Reverse, or change of direction, to reconsider (one’s thinking, feelings, actions) – not saying “Sorry” (apology), but acting in accordance with the change!
5. Confessing sins is important to make changes and produce the “fruits of repentance” *(Lk. 3:8)*
   1. Men and women are to confess their sins to one another (James 5:16; I John 1:9), and that can include public confession of sin *(Galatians 2:11-14).*
   2. If people confessed their sins regularly, there wouldn’t be a need to be confronted!
6. Sometimes, like the Corinthians, we need someone to confront our sin and then we need to be like the saints at Corinth and repent!

#### Old Testament Examples

* 1. A “David” Needed A “Nathan” – Private sins publicly exposed
     1. *II Samuel 12:1-14*
        1. David needed to be shown his sin. He tried to hide it from his fellow man, from God, & in a sense from himself.
        2. Nathan the Prophet was able to get David to condemn himself!
        3. But sin can never be hidden from God!
     2. Prov. 28:13-14; 13:1
        1. He who confesses sin finds compassion (mercy) – II Sam. 12:13
        2. We need to let people know that sin cannot be hid!
        3. God loved David so much that He sent Nathan to expose the sin.
        4. How much do we love others?
  2. A “Captain” Needed Some “Servants” – Rash, angry sin of the moment exposed
     1. *II Kings 5:1-4, 9-14*
        1. Naaman became angry when he was told what he needed to do to be cleansed of his leprosy, but the wise words of some servants turned him back.
     2. Many become just as angry when told what they must do: “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins!” (Acts 2:38; 22:16)
     3. It is important how we confront sin.
     4. HOW we speak, & WHAT we speak is so very important!
     5. Prov. 27:5-6; Eccl. 7:5
        1. It is better to listen to rebuke for our sins than to try and cover them up!
  3. Even when one “knows better” sometimes it takes a friend to rebuke us to bring about repentance!

#### New Testament Examples

* 1. A “King” Needed A “John” – Immoral sins exposed
     1. *Mark 6:14-20*
        1. Herod was committing adultery and needed to be shown the magnitude of his sin, & John did that for the sake of the King, as well as for all that were involved. *Herod did not repent but was given the choice to!*
        2. It did not matter that it was a King!
        3. *John was imprisoned and later lost his life (head) over the issue of MDR!*
     2. Acts 9:15-16; 26:18-20, 29-32
        1. Jesus told Ananias that Saul (Paul) would take the gospel before “kings” and that is just what Paul did! (Even going before Caesar! – Phil. 4:22)
        2. Like King David, regardless of who the person is, or their station in life, they must be shown their sin! *(I Samuel 12)*
        3. Sin cannot be hidden! Left to itself sin will certainly destroy the sinner, & perhaps others as well!
  2. A “Peter” Needed A “Paul” – Hypocrisy sins publicly exposed
     1. *Galatians 2:11-14*
        1. Peter stood condemned for hypocrisy in a public manner and led astray the Jews with Paul and even Barnabas!
        2. Peter needed to be faced with his sin, & because of its public nature, (like King David’s), it needed to be confronted publicly.
        3. It didn’t matter that he was an apostle and a “pillar” (Gal. 2:9).
     2. Galatians 6:1-2; I Timothy 5:19-20: We who are Christians must be ready to confront sin among our brethren (even an elder), & to do so as God would have it done! (James 5:19-20)
  3. Though often unpleasant *(Heb. 12:11),* we need to be ready to rebuke and confront sin; and be ready to make changes when we are the one corrected!

## Conclusion

1. Part of the duty of saints is to confront sin (no matter who it is)
2. Wherever sin is found, it needs to be confronted:
   1. In the church – II Thessalonians 3:6-7, 14-15
   2. In the world – Ephesians 5:6-16; Hebrews 4:12-13
3. Truth must be spoken no matter the consequences, & it must be done the way that God would have it done – in love! *(Hebrews 12:11: All discipline at the moment is not joyful but sorrowful, but if the one responds in repentance it brings forth the peace of righteousness)*
   1. Ephesians 4:15: Speak the truth in love! Some may regard you as an “enemy” for speaking the truth (Galatians 4:16), so make sure it is done out of love!
   2. When someone confronts you over something you have done it is because they love you!
   3. When you are the one doing the confronting, make sure they know you love them!
4. For repentance to happen, sin must be confronted! (We may not often see it in ourselves).
5. Be lights in the world and to those around you, and as lights be ready to expose the darkness and confront sin! *(Ephesians 5:11)*
6. If you are not a Christian, you need to be! True repentance is expressed in godly sorrow: come confessing your sins, repent, be baptized, and be forgiven!
7. If a Christian in error, won’t you return to God? Come confessing your sins that you may receive forgiveness and let us rejoice for you! Repent & be renewed.
8. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!