

When Should I Confess My Sins to Other People?

Elders:

John Deffenbaugh
Wayne Douthitt
Glen Honeycutt
Rick Hyder
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons:

Pete Babb
Carl Cobb
Alan Cook
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Tim Murray
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Local Evangelists:

Danny Boggs
Luke Yates

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

Phone

(417) 451-2724

Email

info@neoshochurchofchrist.org

Website

www.neoshochurchofchrist.org



It's not easy to admit that we are wrong. But if we can get comfortable with confessing our sins to God, James 5:16 might still unnerve us: "Confess your sins to one another..." When should you confess your sins to other people?

If people know you have sinned against them, confessing your sin to them is the right thing to do. Jesus said so in Matthew 5:23-24. Here someone knows that you have done something sinful to him, and you know that he feels that way. What should you do? Admit that you have done it and seek forgiveness from him. God doesn't even want your worship until you try your best to work it out.

In Matthew 18:15-17 Jesus painted a scenario that begins with one person wronging another. Imagine yourself being the wrongdoer. If your brother tells you your fault, what should you do? Confess! If you won't do it, Jesus wants him to bring another person or two. What should you do? It shouldn't have gotten to that point. But if it does, confess! If you still won't penitently admit it, Jesus wants the whole church to hear about it. It shouldn't have gotten to that point. But if it does, confess! Never let yourself stay on the wrong end of this situation.

Some people try to pantomime the Bible's requirements by coming in front of the whole church and admitting to an unspecified sin against an unnamed person instead of owning up to it personally with the one who was wronged. Still others will go to the other person and say something like, "If I have sinned...I am sorry." Neither measures up to the Biblical description of confession.

Even if your sin was not aimed at people, confessing to them can be the right thing to do. The wanderer in James 5:19-20 may be slighting God specifically and fellow Christians only collaterally. When concerned brethren help you to come to your senses about your broken relationship with

God, you'll realize how you broke it with your brethren, too. You'll want to confess your sin to them.

Should you ever confess your sins to people who don't know about them? If people are being hurt unawares or will eventually be hurt by what you have done, they need to hear it from you. We can put fellow Christians into more difficult situations by leaving them in the dark. What if someone who is not a Christian tells one of your fellow Christians about your sin before you do? You would want your brother or sister to be able to tell that person about your repentance and God's forgiveness.

One purpose of confession is to make sure that absolutely everyone who knows about the sin knows about the repentance. This can call for confession to the whole church. It helps with the harm done by your influence. It helps to keep other people from thinking, "Well, if she can get away with it, I can get away with it." Your sin was bad enough. If it becomes the springboard for someone else's sin, it's even worse (Matt. 18:6).

Some Christians try to manage their sin. It doesn't work. Repentance is the need, but it's hard. "Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another." Why? "That you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working" (James 5:16). Such confession gives a caring Christian the opportunity to help bear a burden (Gal. 6:1-2). By confessing specific sin to fellow Christians, you can strengthen your will to do right. The one who hears the confession might say, "I've been there. Here's something the Bible says that can help. Here's what I did about it. Let's tackle it together."

Confess your sins to the people they hurt and to the people who will help.

Danny Boggs



Kay Anderson, Betty Ball, Yvonne Barker, Carol Bessman, Jack Brodie, Shannon Brodie, Derek Campbell, Charles Collinsworth Sr., Pete and Leona Conrow, Dan Cornell, Jace Cornell, Steve Cornell, Vera Cornell, Lana Couch, Lee Crabtree, Robert Crawford, Glenda Daniels, Kenneth Daniels, Kristie Deffenbaugh, Wayne Deffenbaugh, Emily Enfield, Titus Farley, Jerry and Louise Faules, Mary Jane Flint, Reva Flint, Joe and Teresa Freund, Phyllis Goins, Beverly Garrison, Jean Hanger, Faye Haught, Margaret Hawkins, Wilma Hill, Larry Jones, Wilma Knoll, Barry Koch, Brandon Lay, Guy Lewis, Pearl McLeary, Connie Mills, Max Naramore, Price Naramore, Linda Patterson, Cindy Patton, Dale Privett, Jim Privett, Russell and Sarah Puckett, John Starmer, Mark Strohl, Helen Swem, Corin Thomlinson, Richard Tink, Bobbie Tuggle, Robin VanDorn, Mary Van Nelson, Margaret Wald, Eric Wilson, Ruth Ann Wilson, Dorothy Wolgamott, Treva Wolgamott, and Velda Wood.

- **Jean Hanger** spent some time in Freeman Neosho this week.
- **Richard Tink** is at Wildwood for rehabilitation.

Juice boxes: We're collecting juice boxes to help with the Bright Futures effort to send needy Neosho children home with nutrition over the weekends. Place your donations in the west nook of the foyer.

The **monthly ladies' evening Bible study** on the book of Hosea will meet this Thursday at 7:00 at Karen's house. We will cover chapters 8 and 9 in the study guide book.

A **welcome basket** will be given to Cynthia Guy, speaker for our upcoming **ladies' seminar**, March 3-4. If you would like to help with this project, please give cash donations to Brenda Kimbrough.

The **Tri-State Youth Series** for this year will kick off Sunday, February 12, at Vinita.

Men's breakfast is this Thursday at 7 am at Braum's. Join us!



This Sunday's Sermons:

- A.M. Pat Andrews
P.M. Josh King

The annual **area-wide church leaders sweetheart banquet** will be held at 6:30 Friday, February 24, at the Southwest Missouri Bank Community Building at 7th and Duquesne in Joplin. Don Deffenbaugh will be the featured speaker. Cloud's Meats of Carthage will cater the event, which will consist of two meat choices, two sides, bread and dessert. It will be served buffet style along with iced tea and coffee. The cost is \$10 per person. Please sign up at the bulletin board if you plan to attend. The deadline to register is February 15.

Hotel Bibles

By Steve Higginbotham

If I were to follow the lead of our hyper-sensitive, easily offended society, I might take offense at a recent article I read in the *LA Times*. The *Times* reported that "Moxy Hotels," a subsidiary of Marriott International, has decided to no longer offer any religious materials in their hotel rooms. The decision to remove all bedside Bibles from Moxy Hotels is because their market is "geared toward millennials who are fun-loving."

See why I could take offense if I wanted to? I've always considered myself to be "fun-loving" and the Bible has never gotten in the way of that. Why, I even have the "Andy Griffith Show Theme" as the ringtone on my phone. You can't get much more "fun-loving" than that!

Actually, the removal of Bibles from hotel rooms isn't really a move to cater to "fun-loving" people, but to people who love a different kind of fun than I do. I just happen to find living with an eternal purpose, "fun." I find pleasing my Heavenly Father, "fun." I find the development of Christ-likeness a "fun" life-long pursuit. I find waking up in the morning with no shame and no regrets from the night before, "fun."

So let's call it like it is. The move to remove Bibles is not an effort to cater to "fun-loving" people, because I have yet to find a Bible-believer who doesn't "love fun." No, the removal of Bibles is to cater to people who view the Bible as an unwelcome commentary on their brand of fun.

via preachinghelp.org

Ladies, our seminar is just over a month away! Pick up fliers to share with friends and family.

Life Is Like a Box of Chocolates
Hillcrest Church of Christ
2017 Ladies Seminar
 Guest Speaker:
Dr. Cynthia Guy
 Author of:
What About the Women?
Struggle, Seek, Grow
co authored Sweet Truths
 Friday, 7:00 P.M., March 3rd
 "Comparing Ways Our Life is Like a Box of Chocolates."
 Join us after for some sweet treats.
 Saturday Registration at 9:30 A.M.
 10:00 A.M., March 4th
 "You Never Know What You Are Going to Get"
 Join us for lunch on Saturday

ASSIGNMENTS

Prayers Sunday, February 5

- AM Opening: Jared Thomas
- AM Closing: Bryan Reiboldt
- PM Opening: Nolan Murray
- PM Closing: Tony Flint

Scripture Reading Sunday, February 5

- Matthew 7:24-27, David Fehring
- #### Prayers Wednesday, February 8
- Opening: Karson Thomas
 - Closing: Josh King

RECORDS	01-29-17	01-31-16
Bible Study	120	152
AM Worship	183	198
PM Worship	116	132
Wednesday	123	140
Contribution	\$21,485.22	\$7,919.88
Budget	\$7,630.58	\$7,075.67