

11. REPENTANCE, CONFESSION, AND FORGIVENESS

1. What is "repentance?"
 - a. It is not mere "regret" or "remorse" (cf. Deut. 1:41–46; Hebr. 12:16–17; 2 Cor. 7:10–11).

 - b. True repentance means to "turn around" (e.g., Isa. 55:7–8) to have a complete "change of mind" that leads to a change in attitudes and behavior. Humble brokenness. Facing one's self-deception (sin's "cloaking device"). Determination to cease and desist.

2. What is "confession?" It is to "say the same thing" — first, with God, and then with the humans that have been offended by one's sin. It is a solemn act of recognition and admission (see David's "penitential" psalms, e.g., Pss. 32, 37, 51)

3. We must confess to others (James 5:16), but not beyond the sphere of those involved in or affected by our sin.

4. Conclusion:

In the final analysis . true confession is agreement with another that is in agreement with God's Word. One must never confess as sin what he is not sure, biblically, is sin. Nor should he confess to sins that he does not believe he has committed merely in order to appease another who has charged him with such wrongdoings. Confession must be the genuine, heartfelt conviction of the repentant confessor.