



KEY QUESTION *What has Christ done with the sins you will commit tomorrow or next year?*

3 Experiencing God's love and forgiveness

Even though your relationship with God is permanent and you are totally forgiven, you still need to deal with your sins on a day-to-day basis in order to experience a continuing fellowship with God.

Put yourself in the earlier father-child illustration.
What would you do to restore fellowship with your father?

Read 1 John 1:9. *How do you restore your fellowship with God?*

Confession is agreeing with God about sin.

When God brings to your attention that something you have done is sin, confess it. This confession involves at least three factors:

1. **Agree** with God that you have sinned.
2. **Thank** God that He has already forgiven you.
3. **Turn away** from sin and trust God to change your wrong attitudes and actions (repentance).

By turning back to God and away from your sin, you will experience His love and forgiveness provided by Christ's death on the cross. Instead of feeling guilty or condemned, you can know that your fellowship with God is restored.

Putting confession into practice.

Tonight:

- Ask God to reveal any sins in your life.
- List these on a piece of paper. Be completely honest since this is just between you and God.
- After completing your list, write over it the words of 1 John 1:9.
- Thank God for the forgiveness He provides for you through what Christ did on the cross.
- Tear up the list and throw it away.

How many times do you need to confess a particular sin to God?

When should you confess a sin?

Experiencing the results of confession.

Read Psalms 32:5 and 103:12.

What does God do with our guilt when we confess?

What should you do if you still feel guilty after you have confessed your sins?