

## Ch 4: Confession

### Steps to Christ

#### Part 1: First 2 pages

Chapters 3 and 4 are closely linked together. In Chapter 3 we read of repentance—feeling sorry for our sins and accepting Christ's new heart and way of life. Chapter 4 discusses how the Holy Spirit convicts us to confess our sins to God, Who alone offers forgiveness, and to confess our faults to those we hurt through our sin.

#### Discussion Questions

1. If someone spreads a rumor about you, or hurts you in some way, what would they have to do for you to forgive them?
  - a. Say sorry
  - b. Never do it again
  - c. Nothing
  - d. Experience the same hurt that they caused
  - e. Make up for it by doing a favor for me
  - f. Wait until I feel like forgiving them
  - g. I don't forgive people easily
  - h. Other
2. What are some lies Satan tries to tell you about confession?
  - a. It's not necessary
  - b. It's too humiliating
  - c. It will make things worse
  - d. I have to beat myself up
  - e. I am just going to sin again so why bother?
  - f. Other
3. Why is repentance necessary for true confession? Can we come up with humility on our own?

#### Activity

Each person comes up with a lie about themselves (Your real hair color is blue, you can run 100 miles, etc.). Try to convince everyone else that your lie is true. See how long you can keep up the lie! Discuss how confession is like recognizing a lie about yourself and determining to tell the truth. Is it easy to keep up a lie when we know it hurts us and others?

#### Part 2: Rest of Chapter

Without surrendering to the Holy Spirit, we cannot offer true confession. Jesus helps us to acknowledge our sin without diminishing it. He gives us the strength to humble ourselves and live in the new life He has given us.

#### Discussion Questions

1. What is the opposite of confession?
  - a. To pretend it didn't happen
  - b. To say it is not your fault
  - c. To act like it wasn't a big deal
  - d. To blame someone or something for making you do it
  - e. To say sorry but not do anything about it
  - f. Other

2. Why can it be hard to confess after doing something wrong?
  - a. I have to admit I messed up
  - b. They might not forgive me
  - c. I may have to make up for my wrong
  - d. There might be punishment
  - e. Confessing isn't hard
  - f. Other
3. What truth does the Bible say about confession for you, who have accepted a new heart from Christ?
  - a. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ to forgive (1 John 1:9)
  - b. I want to \_\_\_\_\_ for the wrongs I did (Numbers 5:7)
  - c. I don't want to \_\_\_\_\_ others again and again (Galatians 5: 13-16) (4 letter word starts with H)
  - d. I want to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus is offering me (1 John 2: 5-6)
  - e. I can face all \_\_\_\_\_ that come (Hebrews 12:11)

### Activity

Go on a walk in your neighborhood and find your favorite tree. See if there are any branches on the ground that have fallen off. What would happen if you tried to attach the dead branch back to the tree, would it come back to life? Check out the video on YouTube: "This Crazy Tree Grows 40 Kinds of Fruit | National Geographic". Discuss what allows the branches on this tree to survive. Is there a power available to us to live in the family of Christ?

## Chapter 4: Notable Quotes Activity

Locate and underline the quotes below in your copy of *Steps to Christ*. Read them at least 2x. Which of them do you think is the most:

**a. Reassuring b. Amazing c. Exciting d. Thought provoking?**

Are there others that caught your eye?

*"The conditions of obtaining mercy of God are simple and just and reasonable. The Lord does not require us to do some grievous thing in order that we may have the forgiveness of sin[...] but he that confesses and forsakes his sin shall have mercy." (p.37)*

*"Confession of sin, whether public or private, should be heartfelt and freely expressed. It is not to be urged from the sinner. It is not to be made in a flippant and careless way," (p.37)*

*"True confession is always of a specific character, and acknowledges particular sins. They may be of such a nature as to be brought before God only; they may be wrongs that should be confessed to individuals who have suffered injury through them; or they may be of a public character, and should then be as publicly confessed." (p.38)*

*"Confession will not be acceptable to God without sincere repentance and reformation. There must be decided changes in the life; everything offensive to God must be put away. This will be the result of genuine sorrow for sin." (p.39)*

*"True repentance will lead a man to bear his guilt himself and acknowledge it without deception or hypocrisy." (p. 40)*

*"The humble and broken heart, subdued by genuine repentance, will appreciate something of the love of God and the cost of Calvary; and as a son confesses to a loving father, so will the truly penitent bring all his sins before God." (p.41)*

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