

# Building a Christian Community

## Confess to One Another

### James 5:16

#### Introduction

Over the past few weeks, we have been looking at what it takes to build a solid Christian community. We've learned how to serve one another and how to encourage one another, and last week we studied what it means to admonish one another.

1. We are exploring what the New Testament calls "one-another ministry," why it is \_\_\_\_\_ and what it looks like.
2. Jesus says the most compelling evidence that He is the \_\_\_\_\_ is a community of people who know how to succeed in love relationships.
3. This week, we will explore "\_\_\_\_\_ to one another."
4. Confession in the New Testament encompasses a vast range:
  - Agreeing with God that he is great (something we call "praise"),
  - Agreeing before others that Jesus is Lord (Matt. 10:32),
  - Agreeing with testimony in a court case (Acts 24:14),
  - Agreeing with God and/or others about our \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Jn. 1:9).
5. To confess our sins mean that we \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ and "say the same thing" God says about sin instead of calling sin something else.
6. It isn't something we just admit to God; we are talking about verbalizing this to other \_\_\_\_\_ as well.

## I. Reasons for Confession

7. Biblical confession acknowledges wrong behaviors or attitudes to another Christian who can help us reconcile and find healing and wholeness in our \_\_\_\_\_.
8. A misconception is that confession to \_\_\_\_\_ is necessary to gain or keep God's acceptance.
9. To experience the benefits of confession, you first must experience the blessing of God's complete \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Another misconception is that since \_\_\_\_\_ alone ultimately forgives sin, there is no need for confession to others."
11. The Bible teaches that there are times when we need to \_\_\_\_\_ our sins to other people.
12. To use God's forgiveness as an excuse for not being honest with others conveys a serious misunderstanding of God's \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Another misconception is that only \_\_\_\_\_ Christians should handle confessions.
14. All of us need to experience the \_\_\_\_\_ comfort and power of confessing our sinful behavior to God and to other trusted Christian friends.
15. Confession promotes \_\_\_\_\_ and integrity among us.

## II. Benefits of Confession

16. There are \_\_\_\_\_ of being open and transparent and confessing your faults to others!

17. When you acknowledge your sins to another Christian, it can be a wonderful source of \_\_\_\_\_ help.
18. Confession opens the door for us to experience God's \_\_\_\_\_.
19. When you confess you've sinned to another trusted person, there's a healing and \_\_\_\_\_ that washes over your entire being.
20. Confession unleashes God's empowering for you to \_\_\_\_\_.
21. Sin thrives in \_\_\_\_\_.
22. Walking in the \_\_\_\_\_ means being open and honest about our lives.
23. The parable of the prodigal son is a picture of the power of confession to restore \_\_\_\_\_ human relationships.
24. Healing and wholeness in your relationships involve not only forgiveness but a move towards \_\_\_\_\_.

### **III. Rules for Confession**

25. There is no \_\_\_\_\_ formula that guides the process of confession. answer to this question.
26. If you need peace about a situation, get it out in the light with another Christian who can \_\_\_\_\_ with you and agree with you for God's healing and forgiveness.
27. If you can't get free from a besetting sin, there may be a connection between the \_\_\_\_\_ you need and disclosing it to a mature Christian friend.
28. If there is a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ in your relationship, you should seriously consider humility, transparency, and confession.

29. If you need \_\_\_\_\_ on whether, when, or how to do this, ask another mature Christian friend about it.

## Conclusion

30. \_\_\_\_\_ is a crucial ingredient for a healthy community.

This all adds up to no more lies, no more pretense, and tell the truth. Because in Christ's body, we're all connected to each other, and when you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself. Be honest with yourself and open others. The assurance of God's forgiveness and healing power is so often worked out in our relationships with one another!

## ANSWERS

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|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. Essential       | 25. Magic      |
| 2. Truth           | 26. Pray       |
| 3. Confess         | 27. Help       |
| 4. Sins            | 28. Alienation |
| 5. Agree           | 29. Advice     |
| 6. Christian       | 30. Openness   |
| 7. Relationships   |                |
| 8. Others          |                |
| 9. Forgiveness     |                |
| 10. God            |                |
| 11. Confess        |                |
| 12. Grace          |                |
| 13. Professional   |                |
| 14. Liberating     |                |
| 15. Honesty        |                |
| 16. Benefits       |                |
| 17. Spiritual      |                |
| 18. Forgiveness    |                |
| 19. Cleansing      |                |
| 20. Change         |                |
| 21. Darkness       |                |
| 22. Light          |                |
| 23. Broken         |                |
| 24. Reconciliation |                |