



The Confession App
James 1:22, 5:16; Numbers 5:5-7; Luke 19:8-9
Message from Pastor Martin Hawley
August 13, 2017

Idea: The goal of confession is not a clear conscience, but a changed life. Genuine confession leads to genuine change.

Introduction:

Application makes all the difference.

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves.
Do what it says (James 1:22 TNIV).”

Unapplied truth is like unapplied paint.

Today’s life app is CONFESS.

Catholics: You immediately think of the sacrament sometimes called the Sacrament of Penance. This is how you get sins absolved after baptism ...confessing to a priest.

Did you (Catholics) know the system you are familiar with didn’t develop until the seventh century (600s)? What you know as penance began as REPENTANCE, which meant turning away from a sin.

Protestants: You think confession is when you sin, and then later that night tell God you’re sorry. Then, He forgets all about it!

Did you (Protestants) know that God does not forget your sin just because you confess it? If He did, He would no longer be God. God is all-knowing, and He is incapable of forgetting anything!
Somewhere along the way, all of us have come to believe that the **primary** purpose of confession is **conscience relief**.

But confession is not primarily about conscience relief!

Genuine confession serves as a first step toward repentance and reconciliation.

“The LORD said to Moses, ‘Say to the Israelites: ‘Any man or woman who wrongs another in any way and so is unfaithful to the LORD is guilty and must confess the sin they have committed. **They must make full restitution** for the wrong they have done, add a fifth of the value to it and give it all to the person they have wronged (Numbers 5:5-7).’”

1. This wasn’t about feeling better about yourself.
2. It was about getting things right with the ones they had sinned against, evening the score.

“But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount (Luke 19:8 TNIV).’”

“Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham (Luke 19:9 TNIV).’”

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective (James 5:16).”

If your version of confession results in a clear conscience but no change, you are kidding yourself.

If you are ready to break a cycle of sin...ready to embrace genuine confession with all its power...

1. Confess to the person you’ve sinned against.
2. Confess to someone who can hold you accountable.

The problem is that it scares us...

We fear the consequences of confession more than the consequences of concealment.

It’s always better to confess than to be found out.

Conclusion

Let’s quit kidding ourselves. You need to break your endless, meaningless confession cycle. **Genuine confession leads to genuine change.**

Got any secrets? Are you playing the confession game...relieving your conscience but seeing no change? Ready to break the cycle?

What do you need to confess?

Who do you need to tell?

**Next Week
Life Apps – Part 4: The Rest App**

Your life moves to a better place when you move at a sustainable pace.

Communicating the importance of rest was one of the first things God did in the Bible. So why have we neglected – or worse, denied – the importance of this principle? In this message, Pastor illustrates the pattern God gives us for the pace of our lives. And it just may begin with a nap!

NEXT STEPS:

- Memorize: James 5:16.**
- Confess to the person you’ve sinned against.**
- Confess to someone who can hold you accountable.**
- Join Us Next Week for Life Apps-Part 4: The Rest App.**