

<ul> <li>Confession in 3 Parts (looking ahead)</li> <li>Part 1: The Good Confession (acknowledging His Lordship in our lives)</li> <li>Part 2: Confessing our sins to the Father</li> <li>Part 3: Confessing our sins to one another.</li> </ul>	Notes:
<ul> <li>Telling God what He doesn't know. That's impossible.</li> <li>Complaining; merely reciting my problems and rehashing my woes.</li> <li>Blaming: pointing fingers at others. Justification. <i>Max Lucado- Leadership Journal (2012)</i></li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>"As long as we think we are not that bad, the idea of grace will never change us." -<i>Tim Keller</i></li> <li>"Sin carries with it a certain moral myopia—nearsightedness. It distorts our ability to detect its presence."</li> <li><i>-John Ortberg, The Life You've Always Wanted</i></li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Confession IS</li> <li>A radical reliance on grace. A proclamation of our trust in God's goodness. "Your [God's] grace is greater than my sin, so I confess it."</li> <li>Max Lucado- Leadership Journal (2012)</li> </ul>	
"[Confession is] an opportunity to pause a moment to consider the seriousness of our sin If we only had a tinge of the sense of revulsion that God feels towards sin, we would be moved to holier living." <i>–Richard Foster, Celebration of Discipline</i>	
"The power of confession lies not with the person who makes it, but the God who hears it." - <i>Max Lucado</i>	
"If God were not willing to forgive sin, heaven would be empty." -German proverb	

# CULTURE OF CONFESSION

Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what Notes: they had done. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power." -Acts 19:18-20 "Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy." -Proverbs 28:13 Whenever a mean is ready to uncover his sins, God is always ready to cover them. "IF we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and WILL forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." -John (I John 1:9-10) Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And You forgave the guilt of my sin. -Psalm 32:1-5 It is usually much more complicated in the analysis than the experience. "For a good confession, three things are necessary: An examination of conscience • Sorrow A determination to avoid sin." - A desire to be conquered and ruled by God -St. Alphonus Liguori At least 2 things happen in confession: 1. Liberation from guilt 2. We become less likely to sin in the same way in the future than if we had not confessed

### CULTURE OF CONFESSION

#### 7 of the "12 Steps" of Alcoholics Anonymous Notes: 1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol — that our lives had become unmanageable. 2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. 3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him. 4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves. 5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs. 6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character. 7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings. "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." -Jesus (Matthew 7:3-5) "Before men we stand as opaque beehives. They can see the thoughts go in and out of us, but what work they do inside of a man they cannot tell. Before God we are as glass beehives, and all that our thoughts are doing within us He perfectly sees and understands." -Henry Ward Beecher The relationship between God and man in Ps. 139 is personal, not cold. Ps 139. God's Omniscience (v. 1-6) (all knowing) ٠ God's Omnipresence (7-12) (all present) God's Omnipotence (v. 13-18) (all powerful) • God's Righteousness (19-24) (just) v. 1-6 (omniscience- all knowing) What we do (vv. 1-3) • What we think (v. 2) • What we say (vv. 4-6) • "Jesus Likes You" John Dobbs v. 23-24 (full-access) Search & Know See & Lead

# CULTURE OF CONFESSION

Invitation to take inventory

Notes:

### Points to ponder before we prepare to part:

- We must be willing to be vulnerable and confess our sins before God if we expect to live a life of true freedom and nurture a healthy relationship with the Father.
- What is it you need confess this morning?