

## Facing the Facts

### 1. Need spiritual U-turn - Repentance

- A. Must admit that we are going in wrong direction
- B. Not enough to stop sinful actions
- C. Real problem is mind and heart
  - 1. Rom 8:7 – carnal mind, enmity, not subject to law
  - 2. Rom 12:2 – transformed by renewing of mind
  - 3. Jer 17:9 – heart deceitful, desperately wicked

### 2. Luke 18:10-14 – two worshippers

- A. Pharisee
  - 1. Standard was other men
  - 2. Satisfied with outward life
  - 3. Trusted his own righteousness
- B. Tax collector
  - 1. Did not compare himself with others
  - 2. Knew he had no merit
  - 3. Begged for mercy
- C. Cain and Abel – Gen 4:3-5
  - 1. Cain brought thank offering
  - 2. No confession, no plea for mercy
  - 3. Abel brought blood
  - 4. Lost sinner needing God's love
- D. Two sinners needing mercy
  - 1. Titus 3:5 – not works, God's mercy
  - 2. One confessed guilt, one justified
- E. Prov 28:13 – confess, forsake → have mercy

### 3. Why do we need to confess?

- A. God already knows, already paid
- B. Luke 5:31-32 – sick need MD, sinners need repentance
  - 1. KNOW and ADMIT they are sick → MD
  - 2. KNOW and ADMIT they are sinners → Jesus
- C. Confession leads us to:
  - 1. Face our sin

- 2. Accept our need of Christ
- 3. Receive His grace and mercy

### 4. Bad confession: Luke 18:9 – trust self

- A. Blind to sin, enormity of evil
- B. Self-justification, excuses
- C. Insincere confessions

### 5. Good confession

- A. Paul: Acts 26:10-11; Rom 7:9; 1Tim 1:15
- B. David – Psalms 51:1, 3, 10, 12
- C. How should we confess?
  - 1. Heartfelt and freely expressed
  - 2. Not forced or coerced
  - 3. Acknowledge sin and guilt
  - 4. No excuses
  - 5. Definite and to the point
  - 6. Admit we are lost

### 6. Why wouldn't we do this?

- A. Don't hate sin
- B. Not truly repentant
- C. Not truly seeking for forgiveness

### 7. How do we fix this? Face the facts: ABC

- A. Admit that we are broken, faulty, sinful
- B. Behold Jesus, our perfect Substitute and Example
- C. Claim Christ's grace as the only solution

### 8. What is the result?

- A. 1Jn 1:9 – confess our sins, forgive, cleanse
- B. Ezekiel 33:15 – wicked walks, no iniquity, he shall live