

## Asking For Forgiveness (confessing your sins) - Biblical Discussion

What is a sin?

Who can you sin against?

**Memory verse:** “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

What does the Bible state that we are? Holy or Sinners? **Romans 3:23 | Isaiah 64:6**

When is a person saved or have eternal life? **Rom. 6:23 | Acts 16:31 | John 3:16 | Acts 4:12 | Rom. 10:9**

Do Christians have to keep asking for forgiveness for their sins?

A frequent question is “*what happens if I sin, and then I die before I have an opportunity to confess that sin to God?*” Another common question is “*what happens if I commit a sin, but then forget about it and never remember to confess it to God?*” Both of these questions rest on a faulty assumption. Salvation is not a matter of believers trying to confess and repent from every sin they commit before they die. Salvation is not based on whether a Christian has confessed and repented of every sin. Yes, we should confess our sins to God as soon as we are aware that we have sinned. Jesus died to pay the penalty for all of our sins, and when they are forgiven, they are all forgiven. **Colossians 1:14 | Acts 10:43.**

What we are to do is confess our sins: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). At the same time, 1 John 1:9 does indicate that somehow forgiveness is dependent on our confessing our sins to God. How does this work if all of our sins are forgiven the moment we receive Christ as Savior?

What does it mean to confess?

While God has ultimately forgiven us of the sins we commit, they still result in a blocking or hindrance in our relationship with God. A young boy who sins against his father is not cast out of the family. A godly father will forgive his children unconditionally. At the same time, a good relationship between father and son cannot be achieved until the relationship is restored. This can only occur when a child confesses his mistakes to his father and apologizes. That is why we confess our sins to God—not to maintain our salvation, but to bring ourselves back into close fellowship with the God who loves us and has already forgiven us.

### We Are All Sinners

Isaiah 64:6

Romans 3:23

### We Need To Confess Our Sin

Proverbs 28:13

Hosea 5:15

### God Forgives Our Sin

1 John 1:7-9

### Forgiving One Another's Sins

Luke 17:3-4

### Examples of Sin

Colossians 3:5-6

Galatians 5:19-21

### Victory Over Sin

1 Corinthians 15:57

Romans 8:1



## HOW TO RECEIVE & KNOW YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

Admit – that you are a sinner and in need of a Savior (Rom 6:23)

Abandon – self-effort and realize that you cannot be saved by your works or your own efforts (Acts 16:31)

Accept freely Christ's payment for your sins, required of the Father (John 3:16)

Acknowledge Jesus Christ as your personal lord and Savior (Acts 4:12)