

True Fellowship Holiness Church

Bible Study

Facilitator: Bro. Melvin Avant

Date: August 01, 2018

Topic: What the Bible says About Apologizing

The Bible tells us a lot about apologizing and confessing our sins. Learning about the consequences of sins and the harm we do to others leads us to why apologizing is important. Here is what the [Bible](#) has to say about apologizing

Examples of Apologizing in the Bible

Jonah disobeyed God and spent time in the belly of a whale until he apologized. Job apologized to God for sins he did not know he had committed.

Joseph's brothers apologized to him for selling him into slavery. In each case, we learn that there is an importance of adhering to God's plan. We also learn that God is very forgiving, and people should strive to following in God's footsteps. Yet apologizing is a way of confessing our sins, which is an important part of our daily Christian walk.

Why We Apologize

Apologizing is a way of recognizing our sins. It has a way of clearing the air between people and between us and God. When we apologize, we look for forgiveness for our sins. Sometimes it means apologizing to God for the ways we have wronged Him. Sometimes it means apologizing to people for what we have done to them. Sometimes we have to be patient and allow other people to get over it. Meanwhile, God can forgive us whether we ask or not, but it is still our responsibility to ask for it.

1 John 4:7-8 - Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. (NIV)

1 John 2:3-6 - When we obey God, we are sure that we know him. But if we claim to know him and don't obey him, we are lying and the truth isn't in our hearts. We truly love God only when we obey him as we should, and then we know that we belong to him. If we say we are his, we must follow the example of Christ. (CEV)

1 John 2:12 - Children, I am writing you, because your sins have been forgiven in the name of Christ. (CEV)

Benefits

The first benefit of apologizing is that the person doing the wrong can receive forgiveness. In Genesis, we find two twins named Jacob and Esau. Jacob tricked Esau into giving him his birthright and then stole his father's blessing. Later on, in chapters 32 and 33, we see Jacob offering Esau a sincere apology along with many gifts. Esau forgave his brother and did not kill him like he had said he would earlier. Jacob received forgiveness and got to keep his life because he apologized. The second benefit to apologizing is that it is contagious. In Ezra 10:1, we find Ezra crying and apologizing to the Lord for his sin and the sin of the people. The people happen to come by and witness Ezra apologizing. It so moved them that they too began to weep before the Lord and apologize.

Time Frame

Apologies should take place as soon as possible. If that doesn't happen, the Bible instructs us, in Ephesians 4:26, "In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry." Since the sun goes down at the end of the day, we can surmise that the Bible is telling us to apologize for whatever has made us angry and upset before we go to bed for the night. Individual should never put off an apology for another day. The time frame for making an apology is 1 day.

Confessing Your Sins

Confessing our sins isn't always easy. We don't always like to admit when we're wrong, but it is all part of the cleansing process. We should try to confess our sins as soon as we recognize them, but sometimes it takes a while. We should also try to apologize as soon as possible to others. It does mean swallowing our pride and letting go of our own inhibitions or fears. We are responsible to one another and to God, and we have to live up to that responsibility. Also, the sooner we confess our sins and wrongdoings, the sooner we can move on from it.

James 5:16 - Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. (NLT)

Matthew 5:23-24 - So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God. (NLT)

1 John 2:16 - Our foolish pride comes from this world, and so do our selfish desires and our desire to have everything we see. None of this comes from the Father. (CEV)

Considerations

When following God's word, one must consider following the command to forgive others. We are told in Luke 11:3-5 that we need to forgive others so that we, too, can be forgiven. If we don't apologize and forgive those that have wronged us, what gives us the right to expect other people to apologize to us when they have done us wrong? If we have children, we must also consider following this model so that they will learn how to apologize by watching us.