



Key Notes

COMING CLEAN

Confession may be good for the soul, but it's not an easy step. Psalm 32 gives us a pattern to follow so that we can choose to take a courageous step to admit that we have been wrong and cry out to God for His mercy.

By our human nature, we would tend to cover up, instead of clean up. We so often play the blame game. We make excuses, because excuses are in our spiritual bloodstream. Our tendency to blame others is deeply ingrained inside. We try to minimize our own guilt by making someone else look bad.

If left to ourselves, we will do anything and everything to avoid taking personal responsibility for our actions and our choices. Without a deep working of the grace of God within us, we will do exactly what Adam did in the garden when it came to answering God's question, "Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" He says defensively, "The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree and I ate it." A classic piece of passing the buck. Blame it on the woman and, if that doesn't work, blame it on God.

This same pattern of refusing to admit the truth about ourselves and refusing to allow God's forgiveness to flow into our lives continues through Adam and Eve's offspring all the way to today. But it doesn't have to be this way; we must choose. We can cover up – and live a life riddled with inner guilt – or we can clean up by being honest with God about who we really are and what we've done and allow Him to make us clean inside and out.

Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone. Psalm 32:5 NLT

Pastor Mike