

Mutual Confession, Prayer, and Rescue

James 5:16-20

1. The Response to Sin: Mutual Confession. 5:16a

- a. The exhortation: Therefore, confess your sins to one another
- b. A rule of thumb: The circle of confession should match the circle of the sin.
- c. Another rule of thumb:
 - i. If you are not a part of the problem,
 - ii. And you are not part of the solution,
 - iii. You don't have a need to know.
- d. Yet another rule of thumb: Confess your own sins, not someone else's sins.
- e. Corollary rule:
 - i. Don't air your family's dirty laundry.
 - ii. Don't air your church family's dirty laundry.

2. The Response to Sin: Prayer. 5:16b-18

- a. Exhortation: and pray for one another
- b. Result: so that you may be healed.
 - i. This word usually means physical healing
 - ii. That may be true here.
 - iii. But there are overtones of spiritual healing in this passage.
 - iv. Some examples of spiritual healing
 - (1) Isaiah 6:8-10 (quoted in Matthew 13:14-15; John 12:39-40; Acts 28:26-27)
 - (2) John 12:39-40
 - (3) Hebrews 12:11-13
 - (4) 1 Peter 2:24-25
- c. Incentive: The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

d. Example: Elijah

- i. His humanity: Elijah was a man with a nature like ours,
- ii. His fervency: and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain
- iii. His success:
 - (1) and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.
 - (2) Then he prayed again,
 - (3) and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.

3. The Response to Sin: Rescue. 5:19-20

- a. The condition – departure: My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth
- b. The restoration: and one turns him back,
 - i. This is RESTORATION, not evangelism.
 - ii. This is REVIVAL, not redemption.
- c. The benefits: let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way.
 - i. Salvation from death: will save his soul from death
 - (1) This person is a brother. 5:19
 - (2) Therefore, this death cannot mean loss of eternal life.
 - (3) But, sin always brings death.
 - (4) Sin destroys our fellowship with God
 - (5) Sin destroys our fellowship with other Christians
 - (6) Repentance restores broken relationships.
 - ii. Forgiveness of sins: and will cover a multitude of sins.
 - (1) A Christian may have committed a multitude of sins.
 - (2) But contrite repentance, aided by another Christian brother or sister, will cover over all those sins.

Dealing with Sin

Confess your sins; Pray for one another for healing; Rescue a brother who is straying.

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- a. The exhortation: Therefore, _____ your sins to one another.
- b. A rule of thumb: The circle of _____ should match the circle of the _____.
- c. Another rule of thumb:
 - i. If you are not a part of the _____,
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- d. Yet another rule of thumb: Confess your _____ sins, not someone _____ sins.
- e. Corollary rule:
 - i. Don't air your _____ dirty laundry.
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2. The Response to Sin: Prayer. 5:16b-18

- a. Exhortation: and _____ for one another
- b. Result: so that you may be _____.
 - i. This word usually means _____ healing
 - ii. That may be _____ here.
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 - iv. Some _____ of spiritual healing
 - (1) Isaiah 6:8-10 (quoted in Matthew 13:14-15; John 12:39-40; Acts 28:26-27)
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- c. Incentive: The effective prayer of a _____ man can accomplish much.

- d. Example: _____
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 - i. Salvation from death: will save his soul from _____
 - (1) This person is a _____. 5:19
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 - (3) But, sin always brings _____.
 - (4) Sin destroys our fellowship with _____
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 - (6) Repentance _____ broken relationships.
 - ii. Forgiveness of sins: and will _____ a multitude of sins.
 - (1) A Christian may have committed a _____ of sins.
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Dealing with Sin

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