

**I. Introduction.**

**II. Confess your sin to God. v. 1-5**

**A. Come to grips with the nature of your guilt. v. 1-2**

1. Transgression: You have rebelled against God's authority. v. 1b, 3a
2. Iniquity: You are morally twisted. v. 2a, 5a, 9b
3. Sin: You have missed the mark of God's standard. v. 2b, 3b, 5b, 9a
4. Bloodguiltiness: You have committed crimes worthy of death. v. 14a

**B. Take your sin seriously. v. 3 Isa. 59:12**

1. Most take sin too lightly.
2. David knows the degree of his guilt.
3. David passionately pleads with God for help. v. 2,7f

**C. Acknowledge your crimes have been committed against God. v. 4a**

1. The godless are only concerned about the effects of their evil deeds upon themselves and (perhaps) upon others.
2. David is not denying the wrong he did to others. v. 4
3. Though David was a great king, he feared a higher authority.

**D. Admit your sin deserves severe judgement. v. 4b Rom. 3:3-4**

1. Unbelievers deny their guilt. Rom. 3:23 6:23
2. Those who are repentant agree with God's verdict. Luke 23:41 15:18-19

**E. Confess the extent of your depravity. v. 5-6 John 9:34 Gen. 8:21**

1. David is not making excuses, but is acknowledging the corruption of his nature.
2. This is one of the clearest statements of original sin in Scripture. Rom. 5:12
3. Your problem is not merely that you sin, but that you are a sinner. Ro. 3:10f
4. Your great need is truth within. v. 6

**III. Plead with God to forgive and renew you. v. 7-12**

**A. Seek compassion from God Who offers hope for even the greatest of sinners. v. 1**

1. Why doesn't David sink in despair over his guilt?  
• He knows the merciful character of God: which is the sole basis of his plea.  
v. 1, 17 103:8-14 Ex. 34:6-7 Lk. 18:13-14 15:20 Isa. 49:15 55:7
3. There is nothing in man upon which to base hope for forgiveness.

**B. Cry out to God for forgiveness. v. 7, 9, 11**

1. Do you long to be pardoned?
2. God will cleanse you. Ex. 12:22 Lev. 14:4 Nu. 19:18 Mal. 3:2 Is. 1:18 43:25 44:22
3. How can a just God forgive the guilty? Isa. 53:5-6,11-12 He. 9:22 I Jo. 1:8-2:2  
Rom. 3:21-26 4:6-9

**C. Ask God to transform your heart. v. 10**

1. Sin is a *heart* problem. Mark 7:21-23
2. Only God can change your heart. John 6:44 3:7
3. Don't be satisfied merely with forgiveness of your sin.
4. Beg God to make you a new person. v. 10a Ezek. 36:25-27 Jer. 31:33 Titus 2:14
5. Beseech the Lord to make you stable in your pursuit of holiness. v. 10b, 12b

- D. Ask God to restore your joy in Him. v. 8, 12 Isa. 55:1-2 51:3,11 65:17-18 I Pe. 1:8**
- 1. Sin Makes You Miserable. Ps. 32:3-4**
  - 2. Don't Try to Escape the Consequences of Sin by seeking Worldly Happiness.**
  - 3. God is the Only True Giver of Joy and Healing. Ps. 32:1f**
  - 4. Those who are truly repentant have a new attitude towards God.**

**IV. Pledge to faithfully serve God Who has been so good to you. v. 13-19**

**A. Those who are truly repentant long to be useful to God and His people. II Co. 7:11**

**B. Evangelize: Tell other sinners of their predicament and God's grace. v. 13**

- 1. David is willing to use His shameful episode to testify of God's mercy. I Tim. 1:16 Luke 22:32 Psalm 32 Rom. 8:28**
- 2. God Uses frail and feeble instruments for His glory.**
- 3. When did you last tell someone about what God has done for you?**

**C. Praise and worship God. v. 14-19**

- 1. Respond to God's grace with joyful singing. v. 14-15**
- 2. The Lord seeks not mere formal outward ceremonies, but humble heartfelt worship. v. 16-17 Ps. 40:6-8 John 4:24 Mic. 6:6-8 I Sam. 15:22**
- 3. Seek God's favor. v. 18**

**V. Concluding Applications.**

**Discussion questions.**

- 1. When Did David Write Psalm 51? v. 1 II Samuel 11-12**
- 2. What Kind of Confession of Sin Does God Accept? v. 1-5**
- 3. Why Does David Say his Sin is Against God Only? v. 4**
- 4. When Did You Become a Sinner? v. 5**
- 5. What in God's Character is Your Only Basis of Hope for Forgiveness? v. 1**
- 6. How Can God be Righteous and Forgive the Guilty? v. 7, 9**
- 7. What is David Asking in Verse 11?**
- 8. Is there any Sin So Awful that God will not Forgive?**
- 9. Are You Capable of Staying Away from Sin on Your Own? v. 10 What Do You Need?**
- 10. What Should the Response of a Forgiven Sinner be to God's Grace? v. 13-19**