

Proverbs 28:13: *People who cover over their sins will not prosper. But if they confess and forsake them, they will receive mercy.* Confession of sin is necessary for fellowship with God and revival among God's people. As you answer these questions truthfully, each yes means a sin in your life. Be still before God and let him reveal sins of which you have been unaware. Confess specific sins to God, and then accept the forgiveness and cleansing he offers! Renounce your sins and experience the victory that is yours in Jesus Christ! **1 John 1:9-10:** *But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.*

Confession Guiding Questions for Everyone

Putting God's will first in your life: Matthew 6:33: [Jesus speaking] *"...and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern."* Is there any area of your life in which you have failed to put God first? Have you made your decisions according to your own wisdom and desires instead of seeking and following God's will? Does anything interfere with your surrender and service to God, such as ambition, pleasures, loved ones, friendships, desire for recognition, money, your own plans? Are you seeking to further God's kingdom with your time, money, and talents?

Reaching out to the lost: Mark 16:15: *And then he [Jesus] told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere."* Have you failed to make seeking the lost for Christ a priority in your life? Have you failed to witness consistently with your words and actions for Christ? Has your life failed to be a beacon of light to the lost? Have you neglected to pray for your lost family and friends daily? Have you neglected to get trained and to practice methods of communicating God's Good News to the lost?

Having a spirit of brokenness: James 4:6: *He gives us more and more strength to stand against such evil desires. As the Scriptures say, "God sets himself against the proud, but he shows favor to the humble."* Do you feel you have done quite well as a Christian? Are you content in your walk with God? Do you think you are good enough? Are you stubborn or do you insist on having your own way? Do you insist on your "rights?" Do you fail to have a humble spirit at any time?

Having a spirit of submission: Hebrews 13:7: *Remember your leaders who first taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and trust the Lord as they do.* Do you hesitate to submit to the leaders of the church, your small group, or your ministry teams? Do you rebel at requests they give to you to help in the work of the church? Do you have a stubborn or unteachable spirit on any issue? Are there major church teachings about which you disagree and have not reconciled with the pastors or your small group leader?

Having a spirit of forgiveness: Matthew 6:12, 14-15: [Jesus speaking] *"...and forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us. If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."* Do you hold a grudge against anyone? Is there anyone whom you have not forgiven? Do you hate anyone? Are there people you do not love? Are there misunderstandings you are unwilling to forget? Do you harbor against anyone some bitterness, resentment, or jealousy? Is there anyone whom you dislike to hear praised by others? Do you allow anything to justify a wrong attitude towards someone else?

Having a spirit of love: John 13:35: [Jesus speaking] *"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."* Are you secretly pleased over the misfortunes of anyone else? Are you secretly annoyed over the accomplishments or advancements of another? Are you guilty of any contention or strife? Do you quarrel, argue, or engage in heated discussions? Are you a partaker in any divisions or do you fail to build unity in any way? Are there people whom you deliberately slight?

Having a spirit of giving: Acts 20:35: [Paul speaking] *"And I have been a constant example of how you can help the poor by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"* Have you robbed God by withholding his due time, talents, or money? Have you given less than a tenth of your income for God's work in the church? Have you failed to support mission work in prayer or offering? Do you give grudgingly? Do you think more about accumulating than of giving away?

Having a spirit of thankfulness: Ephesians 5:20: *And you will always give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.* Have you neglected to thank God for all things, the seemingly bad as well as the good?

Do you thank God every day? Have you virtually called God a liar by doubting his word? Do you worry? Is your spiritual temperature based on your feelings instead of the facts of God's Word?

Caring for your body: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: *Or don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.* Are you careless in any way with your body? Do you fail to care for your body as the temple of the Holy Spirit? Do you fail to exercise enough and consistently? Do you neglect to sleep enough or eat well? Are you guilty of intemperance in eating or drinking? Do you pollute your body by relying on drugs, including nicotine and caffeine? Do you defile your body in any sexual or other way?

Giving the glory to God: 1 Corinthians 10:31: *Whatever you eat or drink or whatever you do, you must do all for the glory of God.* Do you take the slightest credit or give humans the credit for anything good about you or them, rather than giving all the glory to God? Do you talk of what you have done rather than what Christ has done? Are your statements mostly about yourself? Are your feelings easily hurt? Have you made a pretense of being something you are not, or of exaggerating what you are?

Relying on God's ability: Ephesians 3:20: *Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.* Are you self-conscious rather than Christ-conscious? Do you allow feelings of inferiority to keep you from attempting things you should in serving God? Do you believe you are limited in your ability to serve God instead of believing that God can do anything with you and through you, because he is so mighty?

Being faithful and trustworthy: 1 Corinthians 4:2: *Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful.* Do you fail to fulfill your commitments? Have you proven untrustworthy in your responsibilities? Are you failing to do what the Lord is calling you to do?

Fair-dealing: Ephesians 4:28: *If you are a thief, stop stealing. Begin using your hands for honest work, and then give generously to others in need.* Do you underpay if you know you can get away with it? Do you cheat on your taxes? Do you slack off in your work? Have you been careless in paying your debts? Do you waste time for others or yourself?

Honesty: Colossians 3:9: *Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old evil nature and all its wicked deeds.* Do you ever lie? Do you engage in unhealthy conversation? Do you ever exaggerate? Do you ever cheat or steal?

Being positive: Ephesians 4:31: *Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior.* Do you complain? Do you find fault a lot? Do you have a critical attitude toward any person or thing? Are you irritable or cranky? Do you ever carry hidden anger? Do you get angry often? Do you become impatient with others? Are you ever harsh or unkind? Do you ever seek to hurt someone else? Do you gossip? Do you speak ill of those not present?

Having a spirit of joy: Philippians 4:4: *Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!* Do you carry any bitterness toward God? Have you failed to try to please him in any way? Have you complained against him? Have you been dissatisfied with his provision for you? Do you have reservations about doing anything he commands you to do? Do you neglect to encourage the joy in your own heart? Do you carry around negative thoughts?

Living for eternity: Philippians 1:21: *For to me, living is for Christ, and dying is even better.* Are you taken up with the cares of this life? Does anything mean more to you than living for and pleasing Christ? Are you afraid of death?

Optimizing your time: Ephesians 5:16: *Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days.* Do you spend time with media which is not building you up? Do you partake in worldly amusements? Do you waste time that is not for the purpose of refreshing you? Do you find it necessary to seek satisfaction from a questionable source? Are you doing things that show you are not satisfied with what you have in Christ?

Pursuing purity: 2 Timothy 2:22: *Run from anything that stimulates youthful lust. Follow anything that makes you want to do right. Pursue faith and love and peace, and enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.* Do you have any personal habits that are not pure? Do you allow impure sexual thoughts to stay in your mind? Do you

read or watch tv or listen to things that encourage impure thoughts or actions? Are you guilty of the “lustful look?” Do you allow those who are corrupting influences to influence you?

Avoiding corruption: James 1:27: *Pure and lasting religion in the sight of God our Father means that we must care for orphans and widows in their troubles, and refuse to let the world corrupt us.* Do you neglect to pray before buying things? Have you let the world’s values taint your own? Is your manner of dress pleasing to the Lord? Are you giving generously to the church so it can give generously to those in need? Do you spend more on things than God would want?

Having pure water: James 3:11: *Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water?* Have you dishonored God and hindered his work by criticizing his servants? Have you failed to pray regularly for your pastors and other spiritual leaders? Do you find it hard to accept correction? Is there rebellion in your heart towards someone who is trying to restore you? Are you more concerned with what people think of you than what is pleasing to God?

Fellowship in the Spirit: Hebrews 10:25: *And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.* Have you failed to be regular in attendance at church? Do you whisper or stray in thought during the services? Do you neglect to fully partake in small group life? Are you not open to correction by others in your Christian life or do you fail to encourage and warn them? Do you fail to give thanks at meals? Have you neglected daily family devotions?

Other: Pray that God will show you any other areas in which you have sin in your life.

Confession Guiding Questions for Leaders

1. Am I failing to take complete responsibility for those I lead?
2. Am I not taking responsibility for my failures or for the failures of those I lead?
3. Am I neglecting any sin in my own life?
4. Am I failing in any way to set the example? Am I not doing everything I ask the team to do?
5. Am I forgetting to be a friend to those I lead?
6. Do I make it hard for those I lead to be around me, to be themselves, to feel free to fail?
7. Am I ever not approachable, not teachable, or slow to admit my mistakes?
8. Do I neglect to pray for my people?
9. Do I neglect to encourage my people in their successes and failures?
10. Do I neglect to confront those who need it?
11. Do I treat people unfairly or play favorites?
12. Do I think highly of myself?
13. Do I forget to express gratitude?
14. Am I slow to give away leadership or to serve those to whom I have given it?
15. Am I leading by working too hard instead of by having an overflow of spiritual wellness?
16. Do I forget to listen to God before making decisions?
17. Am I ever harsh in my speech or leadership?
18. Do I forget to communicate all necessary information? Do I share information that is not appropriate?
19. Do I neglect to keep the ministry vision before my team?
20. Do I fail to make myself available to my team at any time for any reason?
21. Do I put the project or tasks before the people?
22. Do I neglect to get counsel from those I lead and others before making major decisions?
23. Do I micro-manage, not giving people a chance to grow, succeed, or fail?
24. Do I reveal things told to me in confidence?
25. Do I focus only on people’s work and not take an interest in their personal lives?
26. Do I forget to help my team stay away from diversions?
27. Do I neglect to raise up new leaders? Do I have too few disciples or key players?
28. Do I neglect to communicate the “why” of things to my team?
29. Do I forget to trust God for things or to lead the group to do the same?
30. Do I speak critically of other leaders in front of my team?
31. Have I neglected to make anyone’s role clear to them?
32. Do I neglect to communicate completely and consistently to my superior?
33. Am I answering too many questions and doing too much for my team, building “leaners” instead of leaders?
34. Am I building friends at the expense of building leaders?

35. Am I failing to demand commitment from my team?
 36. Am I too hard or too easy on my team? Do I neglect to evaluate my people?
 37. Am I forcing people to make decisions or do things of which they are not capable?
 38. Do I neglect to spend time with the disciples of my disciples?
 39. Do I get distracted by other ministries, away from my key ministry?
 40. Do I fail to be consistent in my evangelism efforts?
 41. Am I forgetting to be creative in my leadership?
 42. Do I forget where we are headed?
 43. Am I serving my own ambitions instead of God?
 44. Am I failing to love my team?
 45. Look inward prayerfully for any other way you might be a more godly leader.
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Confession Guiding Questions for Wives

1. Am I failing to be teachable to my husband in any way?
 2. Am I failing to pray for my husband consistently?
 3. Am I failing to submit to my husband in attitude or action?
 4. Am I insisting on having my own way in any area?
 5. Have I neglected to ask my husband lately how I can minister better to him?
 6. Am I unaware of my husband's greatest need right now, or neglecting to try meeting it?
 7. Have I been more concerned with pleasing my husband than with pleasing God?
 8. Do I need to ask my husband for forgiveness for anything?
 9. Am I not being creative enough in trying to encourage and minister to my husband?
 10. Am I allowing my emotions to control me in any way and cause me to react in sin?
 11. Am I harboring any bitterness toward my husband? Have I not forgiven him for anything?
 12. Am I withholding sexual attention from my husband or failing to develop sexual excitement in my marriage?
 13. Have I neglected to show my husband that I am willing to go wherever the Lord calls us?
 14. Do I fail to really listen to my husband [anticipating what he will say or planning my response]?
 15. Have I been short tempered or irritable with my husband at all lately?
 16. Am I failing to care for my household in any way? Do I fail to ensure my household is hospitable for guests?
 17. Am I failing to communicate clearly to my husband about how I think and feel?
 18. Am I putting my husband as a lower priority to my children, ministry, or outside interests?
 19. Am I neglecting to encourage my husband in his work, character development, relationship with God, or otherwise?
 20. Am I seeking the advice of others above or before my husband's?
 21. Am I failing to allow my husband to make the final decision or failing to support that decision?
 22. Am I preventing myself from being vulnerable in my marriage, in letting my husband know my heart and mind?
 23. Am I relying on nagging rather than prayer to influence my husband?
 24. Do I talk badly about my husband to others?
 25. Have I failed to generate trust and respect in my husband? Do I not trust and respect him?
 26. Have I been too preoccupied with myself?
 27. Am I being critical of my husband in any area?
 28. Is there any way in which I am not bringing my husband honor?
 29. Am I more concerned with fading outer beauty than with inner beauty?
 30. Do I look to worldly women for example instead of holy and chaste women?
 31. Am I ungrateful in any way for the welfare my husband has provided?
 32. Am I failing to daily show my husband acceptance, admiration, and appreciation?
 33. Look inward prayerfully for any other way you might be failing to live as a godly wife.
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Confession Guiding Questions for Parents

1. Does my parenting approach conflict with my ultimate goal that my children receive salvation and grow in the Lord?
2. Do I cling to my children as my own and forget to hold them up to God with an open hand, for his purposes and use?
3. Do I fail to clearly convey in thought and action my own love for God? Have I not been a good example in worship, prayer, Bible reading, or application?
4. Do I neglect to help my children apply scripture to their life situations?
5. Do I neglect to pray for my children and to pray with them?
6. Do I fail to clearly convey in thought and action my love for my spouse? Do I fail to show affection?
7. Am I critical of my spouse in front of the children? Do I fail to be seen as a joyful marital partner to my children?

8. Do I fail to clearly convey in thought and action my love for my children? Do I fail to show affection and love daily?
9. Do I only praise performance, neglecting to praise them for character traits and individual qualities that make each child unique and special?
10. Do I ask of my child what I am unwilling to give myself, failing to model the behavior I long to see in them?
11. Do I act discontent in my role as parent? Do I let my children feel like burdens in my life?
12. Do I fail to really listen to my children, stopping what I am doing, making eye contact, and verbally responding?
13. Do I criticize more often than praise?
14. Do I hurt my children through thoughtless remarks or insensitive teasing?
15. Do I embarrass my children in front of others?
16. Do I fail to respect my children? Do I not give proper respect to their possessions or ideas?
17. Do I have priorities before my children other than God and my spouse? Do I convey this?
18. Do I allow myself to become so busy that I don't have sufficient time for my children?
19. Do I neglect to let my children know that our home is always open to their friends?
20. Do I neglect to get involved with my children's interests, activities, or schoolwork?
21. Do I fail to foster an environment in which my children know they can make mistakes and learn from them?
22. Do I neglect to empathize with my children's joys and sorrows, neglect to try to see the world through their eyes or to see them through Christ's eyes?
23. Do I minimize what my children are feeling because I haven't the time to deal with them?
24. Do my spouse and I fail to act as a team in raising our children?
25. Do I fail to set reasonable rules and clearly convey that I expect obedience?
26. Do I neglect to follow through promptly and consistently with punishment for disobedience?
27. Do I punish in the heat of anger instead of after prayerfully calming down? Do I inflict unjust punishment?
28. Do I fail to forgive my children?
29. Look inward prayerfully for any other way you might be failing to live as a godly parent.

Confession Guiding Questions for Husbands

1. Do I ever fail to encourage her enough or to build her up in love?
2. Do I forget to pray before correcting or correcting without God guiding me in this?
3. Am I constantly criticizing and complaining?
4. Do I neglect to pray with her regularly?
5. Am I slow to serve her or always expecting to be served?
6. Am I too demanding or bossy, failing to ask graciously?
7. Do I forget to outwardly communicate love to her daily?
8. Am I putting conditions on my acceptance of and love for her?
9. Are we failing to be as one on any issues?
10. Have I allowed her to feel insecure or uncared for?
11. Am I neglecting to help her feel significant?
12. Do I forget to ask for her input on decisions?
13. Do I patronize her and not really consider her input valuable?
14. Do I fail to be open about my thoughts and emotions to her?
15. Am I expecting her to meet my needs, forgetting that God already has?
16. Do I neglect to explain my decisions to her?
17. Do I fail to help her grow in intimacy with God?
18. Do I neglect to encourage her in her spiritual disciplines?
19. Do I neglect to care for her like I would my own body?
20. Am I preventing us from becoming "one?"
21. Am I harsh with her?
22. Do I forget to consider how she thinks and feels about things?
23. Do I neglect to see her as a child of Christ and my partner?
24. Do I fail to treat her with sympathy and compassion?
25. Am I arrogant in our relationship?
26. Do I insult her?
27. Do I exact my little revenges on her for things she says or does?
28. Do I deprive her of healthy sexual relations?
29. Do I fail to initiate times of physical separation for extended prayer?
30. Look inward prayerfully for any other way you might be failing to live as a godly husband.