

"Come Out, Come Out Where Ever You Are"

FINDING MERCY THROUGH CONFESSION & REPENTANCE

A G.E.F.C. Discipleship Tool

From Proverbs 28:13

"He who conceals his sins does not prosper,
but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy." NIV

"Busted!" - a fear we all have. We dread getting caught in activities or attitudes that we know are not pleasing to God. So, to avoid being caught, we hide! And, to be honest, playing "Hide and Seek" can be a lot of fun - at first. But the game becomes hard work after awhile. It takes a lot of energy to stay "under wraps". To grow in our walk with Christ, we must come out of hiding and "fess up". Self-exposure is threatening but healing. Let us see what this verse of wisdom offers us.

Hiding is Hurtful: "He who conceals his sins does not prosper"

a. Hiding is Very Human - Though not excusable

- Adam & Eve Gen. 2-3

- Achan Joshua 7

- Ananias & Sapphira Acts 5

- Me, You. Our Acts

b. Hiding Seems Helpful

c. But Hiding Is Hurtful

- It Confuses the Issue: Beware the "Convenience of Confusion"

- It Compounds the Issue

We are definitely related to Adam and Eve! How do you describe their response to being guilty of the very first sin by humans (read Gen. 3:6-13)? What did they do & why?

To prove the family connection and resemblance, discuss how and why we hide when we sin?

What reasons do we give for concealing our sin? What clever / sneaky methods do we use?

What do these verses say about the effectiveness of trying to "pull a fast one" on the Almighty:

Prov. 15:3; Psalm 33:13-15; 139:7-12; Heb. 4:12, 13

Are verses like Prov. 15:3 & Ps. 33:13-15 encouraging to you or scary & threatening, or both?

Confession is Cleansing - "but whoever confesses them"

- Confessing To God Ps. 32 & 51; 1 John 1:5-2:2

- Confessing To Others James 5:13-16

Forsaking Must Follow - "but whoever renounces them"

- Repentance Prov. 3:7, 8, Mark 1:4-15;

- Renouncing Rom. 12:9; Titus 2:11-14; Ezk. 14:6;

It is not Perfection But Projection & Progress; Not Arrival but Direction

List some practical ways we can do confess & forsake sin (see 1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 2:22).

Mercy is Multiplied - "whoever finds mercy."

Mercy is a reprieve from deserved justice.

What do these passages say about God, mercy and us? Romans 5:1-11; 8:1, 2; Ps. 32; 2 Sam. 24:14; Ps. 5:1-7; Ps. 57:1-5; Is. 55:5-9; Heb. 4:12-16; James 5:7-11; 1 Pet. 1:3-7; 2 Pet. 2:9-12

What mercies might you be forfeiting because of hiding (futilely) from God? Come out.

Kerry Doyal