

The wonder of forgiveness

4. Proverbs 28:13 says, “He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.” According to this verse, what should we *not* do about our sins?

Sin is always against God. This verse speaks primarily about that relationship and how God is merciful toward those who confess their sin. So we need to confess our sins to God.

Confession means:

- Admitting to Him that we have sinned.
- Calling what we have done exactly what God calls it.
- Not excusing or shifting blame to anyone else.

5. Confession is specific. We don’t make a general statement like “We have all sinned,” but a specific admission of personal sins. Which of these statements would be a genuine confession?

- God, I know I did wrong but I could not help it.
- Sure, it is a sin but everyone does it. I am no worse than they are.
- God, forgive me for saying those unkind things to my neighbour. Give me courage to ask his forgiveness too.
- It was not really so bad, God. I will try harder next time.

6. Read 1 John 1:9, one of the memory verses for this unit. What two things does God promise for those who confess their sins?

God will forgive our sins and purify or cleanse us from this unrighteous condition. This cleansing is important. As long as we are in a sin-stained condition, our fellowship with God is broken. We can’t be filled with his Spirit nor can we grow spiritually.

Notice that he cleanses us from *all* unrighteousness. God is thorough. Remember that you need never remain separated from God and other believers because of sin. You don’t have to allow sin to defeat you or halt your progress toward being like Christ.

Power to overcome sin

Not only does God forgive and cleanse us from sin, He gives us power to turn from it. With his help, we can escape its tempting power.



7. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. God promises two ways to help gain victory over sin. What are they?

- No more temptation
- Protection from temptation that you cannot cope with
- An escape route to get away from whatever tempts you