



Prayer @ Fairfield

“Prayer of Confession and
Accountability”

9 March 2014 – Tony Lane

Do we need to confess?

- No need to confess as Christians?
- “Love means never having to say sorry” (Love Story, 1970)?
- Forgiveness does not require confession?

Confession in Scripture

- Individual confession: Psalm 51
- Corporate confession: Ezra 9; Joel
- Encounter with God: Is 6:5; Lu 5:8
- Luke 18:13
- 1 John 1:9
- Lord’s Prayer

Why Should We Confess?

- Meaningless ritual?
- Conviction of sin: Ps 51:3; Jn 16:8
- Conviction of what? deeds
omissions
thoughts/desires
disposition
- Love of right and hatred of sin

How Should We Confess?

- Corporate confession: liturgy
- Individual: every single sin?
- Regular confession (ACTS)
- As need arises: “arrow prayers”
- With resolve to change: Ps 51:10
- With assurance of forgiveness
- With profound gratitude

Isn't It Unhealthy?

- Bad for our self-esteem?
- Too negative?
- Need for realism
- Need for balance
