

Confession and Invitation

We confess the core and overarching sin of rejecting God's loving rule over us and elevating ourselves into a place of self-rule

- *Diminishing the place of God in our lives*
(unbelief 6:15, idolatry 6:16)
- *Elevating ourselves over God*
(pride 12:7, arrogance 12:20, selfish ambition 12:20)
- *Insisting on our own authority*
(following the world's wisdom 10:4, being led by our own rebellious thoughts 10:4, refusing correction 13:7)

*Gracious Lord God,
We admit where these things are present
We express our remorse for how we have failed you and wronged you
We ask your forgiveness through Jesus
We celebrate that we have been pardoned through his death on the cross in our place
And we invite the work of your Spirit and your transforming touch
Bring this part of our lives into line with the life of the King
and the ways of the kingdom. Amen*

And we confess all the sins that spill out from that central sin, including both . . .

Interior sins related to dishonoring motivations and desires

- *The way our disordered loves compromise our love for Jesus*
(our pure and undivided devotion to Jesus has been compromised 11:3)
- *The presence of what shouldn't be there in our hearts*
(uncleanness 6:17, 12:21, contamination of body and spirit 7:1)
- *The absence of what should be there in our hearts*
(wickedness 6:14, darkness 6:14)
- *The way those places of sin and brokenness seep into our decisions and actions*
(being led astray and being led into sin 11:29)

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Exterior sins related to dishonoring relationships

- *Mistreating others*

(judging others from a human point of view 5:16, doing wrong 7:12, 11:15, indulging in sexual sin 6:2, taking advantage of others 11:20)

- *Elevating ourselves over others*
(making it about us 4:5, commending ourselves 5:12, 10:18, comparing ourselves with others 10:12)
- *Resenting the joys and gifts others have been given*
(jealousy 6:20)
- *Harboring anger and refusing to forgive*
(fits of rage 6:20)
- *Relating to others in a way that tears down and divides*
(slander and gossip 6:20, tearing down 10:8, sowing discord and division 6:20)
- *Being dishonest, pretending to be better than we are*
(falsehood and deceit 11:13, lying 11:31)

(aloud) *Gracious Lord God,*

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The Confession/Invitation Cycle

