

about ...

Confessing + 1 Question

Charlie Brown often has much to tell us about the way life truly works.

Scene #1: Lucy is sitting behind a table with cookies for sale. The sign above reads “Cookies 2 Cents.” Off in the distance Charlie has pulled his hand out of his pocket and with a chagrined expression only finds 1 cent.

Scene #2:

With Lucy looking the other way chatting with a friend, Charlie approaches, leaves his 1 cent and takes a cookie.

Scene #3:

Lucy turns back, notices the one cent and confronts Charlie as he walks away saying, *“Charlie Brown, you shouldn’t do that. Tell me your sorry for taking my cookie and only leaving 1 cent.”*

Scene #4: Charlie says, *“I’m sorry.”* ... and walks away smiling as he takes a bite out of his cookie ... with the caption above recording him thinking: *‘Whew, that was easy.’*

(Then the strip below replays the same 4 scenes.)

Scene #1 is unchanged. Lucy is still sitting behind the table and Charlie is chagrined to only find 1 cent in his pocket.

Scene #2 also remains the same. With Lucy looking the other way Charlie exchanges his 1 cent for the cookie.

But in Scene #3 Lucy's words of admonishment change.

This time she says, *Charlie Brown, you shouldn't do that. Tell me your sorry for taking my cookie and only leaving 1 cent ... **and promise me** that you'll tell me right away if you ever do that again."*

Then in Scene #4 ... a now not-smiling Charlie puts the cookie into his pocket and says, "I'm sorry ... (and then he hesitates a bit before adding) ...*and I promise*" and he walks away ... and this time the caption above records him thinking: '*I really don't want to do that again.*'

The way in which we confess often has much to do with the degree of our repentance.

"After each failure (each sin), ask for forgiveness, pick yourself up, and try again. Very often what God first helps us towards is not the virtue itself but just this power of always trying again.

"For however important chastity (or courage, or truthfulness, or any other virtue) may be, this process (of trying again) trains us in habits of the soul which are more important still. It cures our illusions about ourselves and teaches us to depend on God."

"We learn, on the one hand, that we cannot trust ourselves even in our best moments, ... and, on the other, that we need not despair even in our worst, for our failures are forgiven."

*"The only fatal thing is to sit down content with ... anything less than **perfection.**"*

C.L. Lewis

**That to me sounds a lot like our own
wanting to ... better ... **Become More Like Jesus!****

"Those who do not think about their own sins make up for it by thinking incessantly about the sins of others. It is healthier to think of one's own. A serious attempt to repent and really know one's own sin is in the long run a lightening and relieving process.

“There is the gain in self-knowledge: most of us have never really faced the facts about ourselves until we uttered them aloud (to another) in plain words, calling a spade a spade. I certainly feel I have profited enormously by (this) practice.”

C. S. Lewis

Why do I continue to do it (go to confession)? A number of reasons:

-First of all, it puts a much stronger focus within on whatever it is I've confessed. Like Lewis said I find myself thinking much more often about my failings ... my sins. And I think that's a healthy thing.

-Secondly, it helps my process of repentance immensely. You see, when I know I'm going to face my confessor again in so many weeks, it triggers something within that kind of jabs me when tempted by that sin again.

-Finally, I've really grown to like going. My confessor is like my accountability partner. And he gives me a monthly check-up.

Pastor Pete Fischer

“Going forward I promise to confess to you (his wife) whenever I notice myself sinning in either of these 2 ways. And when there are times that I don't catch myself, I give you permission to bring the offense up to me and I'll confess then.”

Anonymous member Freedom Christian Fellowship Church, Mandarin, FL

1 Question: *“Lord Jesus, You know that I want to become more like You. What would You have me do following this retreat regarding **Confessing?**”*