

Date: _____

Principles of Christian Growth

Section Two: The Means of Christian Growth – How do we do it?

Lesson Four: We grow through confession of sin.

Bible Reading: 1 John 1:5-2:2.

Although we are saved from slavery to sin (remember Section 1, Lesson 3: “Freedom from sin helps us grow”), we still battle an ever-present flesh or sinful nature that causes us at times to choose to sin anyway. At times we fail to appropriate the means of grace that give us victory over sin, and so instead we yield to temptation. How we respond to these times of failure will play a very important role in whether or not we will continue to grow in grace in a healthy way. We must confess our sin.

Discussion questions:

1. The Apostle John is concerned with the believer’s fellowship in this passage (vv. 6-7). A believer needs fellowship with the Lord (v. 6) and with other believers (v. 7). What is the difference between fellowship and relationship? How is the basis of our Christian fellowship different from the basis of our relationship with Christ and other believers?
2. Why is confession of sin so important when it comes to our fellowship with God and other believers who are in fellowship with God? (v. 5).
3. What is the opposite of confession of sin? (vv. 6, 8, 10; Prov. 28:13).
4. What happens every time we confess our sins? (1:7, 9, 2:1).