

**There is Hope Radio**  
**3-9-25-Transcript**  
**Public Repentance**  
**PreacherRichD**

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Your radio host is the Let's Get Real PreacherRichD of Creating Futures.

In my last broadcast, I spoke about true repentance and share some of the benefits we experience between us and God when we walk in repentance. In this broadcast, I'm going to talk about the benefits when there's public repentance for public sin. I will explain what I mean by public sin and public repentance.

And like always at the end of this broadcast, the announcer will tell you how you can obtain a transcript of this broadcast. Before I share what I mean in regard to public sin, I need to preface that in this broadcast I mainly speak to those who claim to be Christians. Those who by their actions and words let others know they are Christian. Those who should clearly know what is godly behavior and what is ungodly behavior. Those who should know what the bible teaches regarding how we should interact with others, especially the fellow Christians.

But before I go any further, I will say that one of the issues is that there are those who claim to be Christians but there is no fruit or evidence that they have the Holy Spirit living within them. I addressed this in another broadcast titled, *True Salvation*. So, this message is directed to those who confidently say they are Christ followers, not someone just using the title Christian because they live in the bible belt.

A true Christ follower is going to feel conviction when they do something that is clearly sin. That conviction is to lead to repentance, not excusing, justifying inappropriate behavior in the public arena. Of course, the exception is when a Christian hardens their hearts and starts to justify and excuse behaviors, it is harder for them to experience conviction from the Holy Spirit because of hardness of heart. We will be praying about that later on in the broadcast.

So what is public sin? The public sin I am talking about is when there are things we say or do in a public arena that is clearly harmful and damaging to others. I understand that in today's culture that there is a mindset that we can say and do anything we want with no consequences as long as we are, quote, standing for truth. The problem with that mindset is that it is not what the bible teaches.

If a person is going to claim to be a Christ follower, then their standards should be what the bible teaches, not what the world has to say. We are supposed to speak truth and love. And we are supposed to speak facts, not rumors and gossip. Besides, there are some actions I

believe most sensible people can acknowledge whether you are a Christian or not that certain behavior is wrong. So, let's look at the common public sin that is taking place in social media and in various meetings right here in the city of Fairfield Bay and many communities across America.

So here is some of the public sin that goes on. Speaking blatant lies about someone. Making innuendos, inferences about individuals not based upon facts but based upon rumor and gossip. Mocking, name calling, labeling. You might just put a general statement of speaking poisonous words. Or there is the claiming to know the heart and motives of a person. All of this falls under the title of bearing false witness.

Any true follower of Christ knows this behavior is wrong. It is sinful. Again, if they don't, it means they have a hardness of heart which is another issue. It is the character of Satan who is the accuser of their brethren. It is especially sinful when done in a public manner because it can lead to people having false impressions of a person. It can lead to putting more fuel on gossip and rumors that are false. It fuels hatred, division, disunity, unholy alliances, and unnecessary drama. To be quite blunt, it invites demonic spirits into a region when it becomes the norm. It can have an effect on an entire community, not just the person that is the recipient of such behavior.

Listen to me. Look at what is happening in the community of Fairfield Bay right now. Okay, so if you thought I was getting real with you, now it's time to really get real.

If you have been guilty of the public sin and you are claiming to be a follower of Christ, you need to repent. And it needs to be public repentance because you have sinned publicly and you have caused some damage publicly in a person's life and in the community. Listen to me. Maybe at the time you spoke, you thought you were speaking truth, but you have come to knowledge that what you have spoken was false. You are even more obligated to repent and make amends to the person you have harmed. One of the ways of making amends is to go to the person privately to repent, but also to repent publicly to bring forth truth where you have shared falsehood.

I know this isn't something you hear probably in most churches. This isn't going to be something you hear from most people on the radio, but it needs to be said. Listen to me. Listen. Please listen to me. I beg of you.

How about being the one that initiates public repentance? How about setting the example for others? What would happen in a community where there was true public repentance? Where there was amends between the guilty party and the one wronged? You know what would most likely happen? Two things. More likely there would be others that would repent. Two, there would most likely be less of the public sin I just described.

Now I know that most listeners right now will probably say, you're dreaming PreacherRichD. You're naive. Well guess what? You are probably correct. But this I know.

A. The person who has sinned public and repents publicly are less likely to manifest such behavior in the future.

B. There is the potential that through amends they and someone else are no longer enemies even if they do not agree on everything. They might just listen to what each other has to say.

C. Father God will be pleased.

D. One less foothold for Satan in a community.

E. Just maybe it would lead to repentance by others and revival comes to a community.

There's something else I want to share. If you're the victim of wrongdoing by another person and you claim to be a Christ follower, you are to forgive them whether they repent or not. Ephesians 4.32 says, *Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving to each other, just as God and Christ has also forgiven you.*

Matthew 18.21-22 says, *Then Peter came up and said to Jesus, Lord, how many times shall my brother sin against me and I still forgive him? Up to seven times Jesus said to him, I do not say to you up to seven times, but up to seventy-seven times.*

Matthew 6.14-15 says, *For if you forgive other people for their offenses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive other people, then your Father will not forgive your offenses.*

So, it's pretty clear that we need to forgive individuals and notice it doesn't say if they repent or not that we are to forgive. So, if somebody has done something against you that has wronged you by words they've spoken, something they've said in a public manner, your responsibility as a Christ follower is to forgive them. Now that doesn't mean that you allow them to abuse you, that doesn't mean that you don't stand up for righteousness, that you don't stand up for truth, doesn't mean that you shouldn't bring correction at times when there's lies that have been spoken. But there's a place where you let God deal with them instead of thinking you need to deal with them.

Here is the reality. Some of you are mocking, some of you are name calling, some of you are labeling, some of you are speaking poisonous words because you have unforgiveness in your heart and you're wanting the person to pay. You think they've done wrong, maybe they have done wrong, and you're going publicly trying to destroy their reputation, trying to ruin their life. And if you're a Christ follower and you're doing that, you're wrong. You're in blatant sin. You already know that your motives are evil and you need to repent. Yes, I'll say it, you need to repent.

So, I've got a question for you. What would happen if there was public forgiveness and public amends? Think about Fairfield Bay or your own community. What if the people who are known to have extreme disdain and even hate for each other publicly repented and publicly forgave each other and worked as a team instead of as enemies? I could mention names. I know what some of you think. "I hope they never make amends. I hope they get more confrontational, more direct, more mean to that wicked evil person." If that's your heart, then you need to repent.

There's one thing to stand for truth and righteousness. There's another thing to, again, to want to see hatred and bitterness and resentment taking place.

I know others are thinking, well, there will never be public forgiveness and public amends made by those individuals. You know what? It's probably true. But what would happen if it did? The devil would lose some of his foothold in Fairfield Bay or your city. So what should we do? We should pray. We should intercede. We should stand in the gap. Now, that's another radio topic that I need to do to talk about our ministry, *Standing in the Gap*, which is all about intercessory prayer for Fairfield Bay, for individuals, for our nation, for the body of Christ. That if we see a problem and we don't believe that there is a solution, there is a solution. That's to pray, to intercede, to literally stand in the gap and ask God to intervene in some situations that's going to take a miracle. Well, let's pray.

Oh, wait, wait, wait, wait. Before we pray, I don't want to forget, I want to mention to you that you can reach me by phone to receive prayer for you or someone else, to receive mentoring, or just to complain about this broadcast if you want. You can give me a call. PreacherRichD at 1-866-WANT-GOD. That's 1-866-WANT-GOD or 1-866-926-8463. That's 1-866-926-8463.

Well, let's pray. Heavenly Father, I just know that some aren't going to like this message. And one of the reasons they won't like it is because they're a guilty party and they have hardness of heart and they want to defend their ungodliness. So, Lord, I pray that you would bring conviction upon them. Show them the errors of where they're claiming the name of Jesus, but they're having behavior that's bringing destruction, harm to others and to this community and to themselves. And so Lord, I pray for repentance on their part. And they would repent publicly. I know it's going to take a miracle some are saying, Lord, but you're a miracle working God. And Lord, I want to pray that each of us keep our hearts pure. It is easy to point the finger at others. It's easy to say, yeah, that message is for so and so. But Lord, help us look at our own heart and say, is there things that we have said or done in a public situation that we need to make amends, that we need to repent and that we need to make amends. And we need to first go to you and ask for forgiveness, but we may need to go to somebody else and ask for forgiveness. Lord, I pray for those who have been wounded, who have been scared, who've been harmed by the words spoken by others. I pray, Father God, you give them the grace, the ability to forgive.

I just pray, Lord God, this is a passion in my heart. It's been a passion for a long time. Lord, I know it's not popular. I know nobody wants to talk about it, but Lord, I would pray for public repentance to take place in our communities. That there would be amends that is made where there needs to be amends. That Lord God, that there can be, there would be, which seems strange, but a love between individuals that cannot agree on various things. That Lord, that there could be, we agree to disagree and really mean it. That Lord, that there would be a softness of heart to learn from each other, to hear from each other, to be able to gain insights from each other. And Lord, it's going to take a miracle.

So Lord God, I pray for the spirit of conviction to come upon your body of Christ and there would be true repentance. I know that there are those who are listening and they believe in everything I'm saying. They're praying for the things I'm talking about. They're wanting to

see a change in our community. They're wanting to see more unity. They want to see us working together as a team. That yes, we have different ideas and different ways of doing things, strong beliefs about certain things, but how can we find a way to work together for the good of the community? Lord, would you raise up individuals that have the gift and ability to be mediators? Lord, we need some godly mediators to bring some unity in our communities. Lord God, we would pray where there needs to be public repentance, there would be public repentance. That there'd be a revival in the land. There'd be a move of your spirit in the land. And then all this division, this unity and hatred and bitterness would flee. It would go. We know it will take a miracle, Lord, but you're a miracle working God and I pray all this in Jesus' name. Next week, I'll be sharing about all the various ministries we're involved in besides There is Hope Radio. We have Saturate Arkansas standing in the gap and creating futures.

Thank you for listening.

Thank you for tuning in. You've been listening to PreacherRichD, the radio host of *There is Hope Radio* and the founder of *Creating Futures*.

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