

What follows is a common viewpoint regarding confession and a criticism of those who believe otherwise. We do not agree with his assessment.

A handful of rather vocal popular evangelical teachers have begun to insist in recent years that Christians who have already been forgiven of sins by the atonement of Christ no longer need to ask God for forgiveness once they have committed to Christ. The best-known proponent of this view is popular author and radio speaker, Bob George. His views have been laid out in his pretentiously titled book, *Classic Christianity*. Although there is much to be commended in his writings, his insistence on resisting daily confession is troubling. In his book, *Growing in Grace*, Bob George characterizes Christians who pray for regular forgiveness as people “who live in daily insecurity” and as people “who doubt whether all their sins are forgiven” (p.67).

It is our assertion at Mill Creek Community Church that such a teaching is incompatible with a biblical view of sanctification and discipleship. In its full-blown form it can easily lead to a form of antinomianism (an ancient heresy consisting of an extreme view of Christian liberty that legitimizes sinful practices). George’s views at their root confuse biblical teaching on sanctification. Such teaching misunderstands the difference between *Positional Sanctification* (the believer’s “legal” declaration of righteousness at salvation) with *Personal Sanctification* (the believer’s daily obedience in holy living which necessarily entails confession of individual sins). It also ignores Jesus’ own teaching on confession in the Lord’s Prayer and the clear teaching of 1 John 1:8-10 which is directed to all believers.