Psalm 51: Confession
Read Psalm 51:3-5

The psalmist has begged for forgiveness, for undeserved mercy, for complete cleansing. Now he specifies why he needs it. He confesses.

He is deeply, constantly, unforgettably aware of what he has done (v.3). He knows how wrong it was in every way. Sin harms not only us, but others. In David's case, he wronged Uriah…Bathsheba…his family…his nation…and all who observed his actions.

So how can the psalmist say to God, *"Against You, You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight"* (v.4, NASB)?

- We wrong other people, but we sin against God.

- The psalmist isn't minimizing his actions. On the contrary, he is looking God squarely in the eye and saying, "I have sinned against You—not against another human being, but against *You*!" David sinned against the holy God, His creator, the One who chose and anointed him, to whom he owed all he had and all he was. Surely God's words were ringing in his ears:
    > *"It is I who anointed you king…who delivered you from the hand of Saul. I also gave you your master's house and your master's wives…I gave you the house of Israel and Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added to you many more things like these! Why have you despised the word of the Lord by doing evil in His sight?"* (2 Samuel 12:7b-9a, NASB)

  The sins we commit are always against our holy Father, our Creator, the One who loves us and to Whom we owe everything.

From this awareness of sin, the psalmist says, "God, you are absolutely just and right to condemn me" (v.4b).

Then what does he mean in v.5, *"Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me"* (NASB)? Is he making excuses? "It's not my fault - it's the way I was born!"

No, he's confessing that he is completely sinful to the core. This sin wasn't a one-time exception to an otherwise-spotless heart and life. "I have been sinful from the beginning, all the way to the root of my being."

God can't correct our sin problem until we face it and confess it all.