

Confirmation Lesson

#30

Confession/Absolution

Pastor's Lesson

1.) **What is confession?—Catechism**

Confession has two parts!

***First we confess our sins**

***Second we receive absolution (forgiveness) from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in Heaven.**

2.) **What sins should we confess?---Catechism**

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the Pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Sins of thought/word/ and deed

Sins against God/ Our Neighbors/ and in some cases against ourselves

Confession embraces two parts:

- 1.) To admit or confess a wrong.
- 2.) To Be forgiven

For example if you step on another person's foot, you would say

- 1.) Excuse me or I beg your pardon
- 2.) Then we receive his/her pardon or forgiveness

When we disobey God's Word:

- 1.) We are to confess our sins.
- 2.) We receive God's forgiveness or absolution.

When looking at what sins to confess we should also look at our lives according to the Ten Commandments.

Have I placed God first in my life? Have I taken God's name in vain, cursed, and swore falsely? Have I angered others so that they curse? Have I attended church regularly and Holy Communion? Have I neglected my daily devotions? Have I honored y parents or those in authority over me? ETC.....

3.) What is private confession?

You have probably seen or heard about confessions booths in some Christian practices where the parishioner shares their sins that are troubling their heart and mind spiritually! Much comfort is brought to people by verbally confessing their sins.

- 1.) You are recognizing before another person (pastor) that your action was indeed sinful.
- 2.) You are releasing the burden of that un-confessed sin on your heart.
- 3.) You are able to hear words of Forgiveness for that specific sin.

In the Lutheran Faith we do not typically use booths, but we do use the "Pastor's Office". No matter where confession/absolution takes place, it is a blessing and a comfort for the sinner.

Every Sunday we have a wonderful opportunity through our "order" of worship to confess our sins privately to God as well. To cast our burdens to God. To come before the cross and lay down all of our worries, all of our sins, all of our struggles, and anything that is causing us to struggle. It is an intimate relationship that we have with God. We go to God hurting each week (or day) because of the pain we have caused in being sinful, but we are then filled with relief, joy, or even comfort knowing that our sin has been accounted for!

4.) How does God keep forgiving me for doing the same sin?

God is amazing indeed! As humans we think, "Hey God will only turn his cheek so many times when I curse His name." But God isn't human, God is God. God is a God of love for his people.

1 John 1:8-9-----If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and jus and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

We never want to take advantage of anyone or anything, especially God's Grace. We don't want an attitude that says, "I am going to do whatever I want because God will forgive me."

What does repent mean? The words repent means to "turn away from." To confess or repent of our sins means we are telling God we are willing to "turn away from" that particular sin or lifestyle causing the sin. God is fully aware that we are not perfect, and still extends to us His Grace and Mercy and Forgiveness. However, he does expect that we will fully do our part of truly trying to change and mend our broken and sinful lives.

If you truly confess your sins to God----GOD will never turn away from you!