

Lesson C4 - Confession

What is confession?

Confession has two parts. First that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

What sins should we confess?

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.

Which are these?

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

1. When you were a small child did you ever try to keep something from your parents?

If so, how did you feel?

2. According to Psalm 32:3 what was the Psalm writer experiencing?

3. How do you think the Psalmist felt after he confessed his sins and received absolution?

4. Look online to find a definition of the word "*absolution*"

5. Read Psalm 32:3,5 and Isaiah 1:18, what are the two parts of confession?

6. What sins should we confess before God? (see Psalm 19:12, I John 1:8-9)

7. What sins should we confess before our neighbor? (See James 5:16, Matt. 5:23-24)

8. What sins are we encouraged to confess privately before our pastor or confessor? (2 Sam. 12:13, James 5:16)

9. According to your catechism, how should we regard the absolution spoken by the pastor? We should firmly believe that by it our _____ are _____ before _____ in _____.

10. What assurance do I have that my private confession to the pastor will remain confidential?
See I Tim. 3:1-2, Psalm 103: 12

11. **What is the benefit of private confession and absolution?** See Psalm 32:2, 2 Sam. 12:13

12. **Read Psalm 130.** How does the psalmist feel as he confesses his sin?

Why do you think he is so confident of God's forgiveness?

Office of the Keys

1. According to John 20:19-23, what is the first thing Jesus told his disciples to do when He saw them after the Resurrection?

2. What is the Office of the Keys in the church? (What do keys do?)

3. Jesus gave the church the authority to do these three things:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

4. Fill in the blanks for this statement:

_____ gave the Office of the keys to the _____ which calls the _____ to carry out this Office.

5. When the pastor of a congregation forgives sins, he does so in whose name? _____

6. Whose sins are to be forgiven? Those who _____

7. Whose sins are to be retained? Those who _____

8. What are the four steps of Church Discipline according to Matthew 18:15-17?

1)

But if the person does not change their ways then...

2)

But if the person does not listen or acknowledge their sin then...

3)

If the person still refuses to repent of their sin then...

4)

9. If a person at any point in this process repents, what should happen next? _____