

November 7, 2021
Discussion on Confession of Sin and Absolution

QUESTION FOR REVIEW:

1. Read 1 John 1:7-10. What do we find out about the value of confession in these verses?

2. Read Psalm 51:1-12. What prompted David's need to confess his sin? What prompted David to confess? (see 2 Samuel 12:1-14)

3. Read Matthew 11:28-30. To whom does Jesus say, "Come to me?" How does Jesus describe Himself in these verses?

4. Read James 5:16. What is the benefit of confessing our sins to one another?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

5. Read John 16:7-11. According to these verses is the work of the Holy Spirit in connection with confession?

6. Read Matthew 18:15-22. What is the desired result when someone is confronted with their sin?

7. Read John 20:19-23. What is the office of the keys?

8. How does the Lord's Prayer connect with this topic of Confession and Absolution?

9. Read Psalm 19:11-14. In the Lutheran Church today we sometime view private Confession as something only for the Roman Catholic Church. The Augsburg Confession makes clear that the Lutherans were not abandoning the practice of private Confession. What are some of the errors that might creep into private or individual confession? Can those some problems creep into public or corporate (as a congregation) confession?

10. When we confess our sins we sometimes feel a weight taken off of our shoulders. Is there a time when you confessed something and felt that burden lifted? (This question isn't necessarily asking you to name that sin but is asking if you have had this experience.)

11. When we talk about Confession and Absolution we are talking about how God delivers to us the gracious work of Christ. When was it that Christ won the victory for us?

12. The first of Luther's 95 Theses says, "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" [Matt. 4:17], he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." What are some of the things that God has used to help you remember to continue confessing your sins? What are some ways that we might lovingly help one another remember that we need to live lives of repentance?