



YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

LESSON 15: CONFESSING OUR SINS TO OTHERS

Review

What does it mean to *confess your sins*?

According to Psalm 32:5, to whom should we confess our sins?

Confession and Forgiveness

- What should we believe when we confess our sins to God?

Matthew 9:2 (1043) _____

- Can it be hard for us to believe this sometimes? Can you think of an example in the Bible of someone who confessed his sin but did not believe he was forgiven?



Thirty Silver Coins

Confessing To Others

- Sometimes, even after we have confessed our sins to God, we might still be troubled about them. To whom can we confess our sins to hear additional assurance that we are forgiven?

2 Samuel 12:13 (1040)

This type of confession is called *private confession*.

- How do we determine which sins we should confess privately?

2. What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we don't know we have done, as we do in the Lord's Prayer. However, before one another we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

3. Which sins are these?

Examine your place in life according to the Ten Commandments. Have you been faithful as a father, mother, son, daughter, employer, or employee? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you injured anyone by what you have said or done? Have you stolen anything, neglected your duty, been careless, or damaged anything?

- Is it necessary to confess *all* our sins to someone privately?

Psalm 19:12 (1035)

- If someone confesses his sins to you . . .

4. What will a fellow Christian say to someone who has confessed his or her sins?
He will say, "According to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

A. **2 Samuel 12:13** (1040)

Matthew 9:2 (1043)

B. **Proverbs 11:13**

From the *Augsburg Confession*: Private absolution should be retained and not allowed to fall into disuse. However, in confession it is not necessary to enumerate all trespasses and sins, for this is impossible . . . If we were to be absolved only from those sins which we can enumerate we would be helped but little.

- What should a Christian do if he has hurt someone else by his sin?

A. **James 5:16** (1029)

B. **Luke 19:8**

- How often should we forgive our neighbor when he is sorry for sinning against us?

Lk 17:3b-4

Luther's *Large Catechism*: Concerning [private] confession we have always taught that it should be voluntary . . . There has been no law quite so oppressive as that which forced everyone to make confession of sin on pain of the gravest mortal sin. Moreover, it so greatly burdened and tortured consciences with the enumeration of all kinds of sin that no one was able to confess purely enough. . . . We may confess without coercion or fear, and we are released from the torture of enumerating all sins in detail . . . We may at any time and as often as we wish lay our complaint before a brother, seeking his advice, comfort, and strength.



Memory Work

Memorize the first question and answer on confession (Catechism, p. 183 in the box)

Assignment

- Read all four summary questions and answers in your catechism (pp. 183-185)
- Memory Work