

56 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?

What is the office of the keys?

The office of the keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?  
This is what St. John the Evangelist writes  
in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on  
His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.  
If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven;  
if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."  
(Jn 20:22-23)

What do you believe according to these words?  
I believe that when the called ministers of Christ  
deal with us by His divine command, in particular  
when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from  
the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent  
of their sins and want to do better, this is  
just as valid and certain, even in heaven,  
as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

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Rom 3:20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in His sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. SOS

1 John 3:4 Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness

There are two kinds of sin.

① Original Sin = the total corruption of our human nature inherited from Adam

② Actual Sin = breaking God's commandments in thought, word, or deed (action)

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① Rom 5:12 Sin entered the world through one man  
Rom 5:19 through the disobedience of the one man  
the many were made sinners.

Eph 2:3 Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

Rom 8:7 The sinful mind is hostile to God.

② Man's original sin (totally corrupt human nature) causes him to commit all kinds of actual sin.

Rom 8:7 The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

Gen 8:21 Every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood.

Gen 6:5-6.. every inclination of thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

Mt 7:17 Every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

Matthew 5: 21-22 Murder - 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment

v.21 murder as act only

thoughts

words

and deeds

v.22 Jesus explains

anyone who is angry

anyone who says, "Raca" ... "You Fool..."

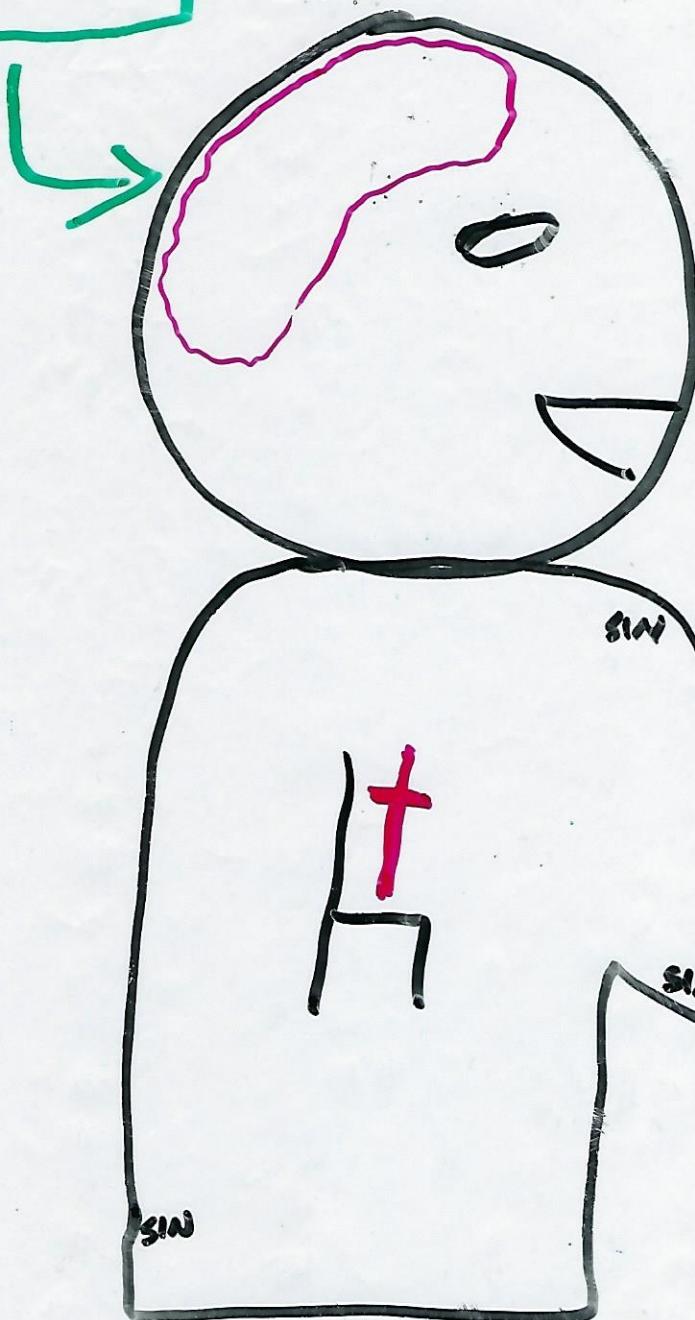
1 John 3:5 Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life.

Matt 15:19 Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder...



Law - 50 Sins

Gospel - 50 Savior



Confession

That's Sin.  
Not my Master.  
Put away

SIN

Absolution

I'm forgiven

Jesus is my Savior  
Put on Christ

Jesus  
Forgiveness

Good Works  
Love God  
Love Neighbor

# Confession ("first that we confess our sins")

When the Law of God

- Defines sin.
- Expresses God's anger/wrath at sin
- Accuses us of doing sin.

So that man

[contrition]

See Mt 27:  
1-5

- Acknowledges sin
- Terror of conscience (knowing God's anger)
- Admits and grieves over sin (knowing God cannot be appeased by our works)

# Absolution ("second, that we receive absolution")

When the Gospel is presented

See Mt 26: 33  
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26:47-75

Jn 20:24  
21:7  
21:15f

- Forgiveness is obtained by Jesus Christ
- God's anger is taken away.

- Forgiveness is freely offered and given

So that man

- Believes the Good News - the conscience is comforted
- We seek God's Goodness in Christ.

Merry

Confession MK 1:15 Lk 24:47 Act 2:38 Ps 32:5

- |               |            |                |                |            |
|---------------|------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| 1) confess    | 1) Repent  | Dropentance    | 1) Repent      | 1) confess |
| 2) absolution | 2) believe | 2) forgiveness | 2) be baptized | 2) forgive |

2 Sam 12

1.13 I have sinned against the Lord

The Lord has taken away your sin.

Mark 2:1-12 (Mt 9:2-8, Lk 5:18-26)

v.5 "Son, your sins are forgiven."

v.7 "Why does this fellow talk like that?  
He's blaspheming!"

Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Ps 130:4 But there is forgiveness with you

Dan 9:9 To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness

v.10 "But that you may know that the Son of Man  
has authority on earth to forgive sins"

Mt 9:8 "... and they praised God, who had given  
such authority to men."

# John 20: 19 - 23

v.19 Peace be with you

v.21 Peace be with you.

As the Father has sent me, — has authority  
I am sending you — gives authority

v.22 And with that he breathed on them and said  
"Receive the Holy Spirit.

v.23 If you forgive anyone his sins,  
they are forgiven.

If you retain the sins of any  
they are retained."

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Mt 16: 13-19

v.16 Simon Peter answered,  
"You are the Christ, the  
Son of the living God."

v.17 Blessed are you...  
revealed... by my Father

v.18 And I tell you that  
you are Peter and on  
this rock I will build my  
Church and the gates of  
Hades will not overcome  
it.

I will give you the keys  
of the kingdom whatever  
you bind on earth will be  
bound in heaven, and whatever  
you loose on earth will be  
loosed in heaven."

Mt 18: 15-20

v.15 "If your brothers sin  
against you..."

- Just the two of you
- take 2 or 3 with you
- tell to the church

v.18 I tell you <sup>truth</sup> the truth,  
whatever you bind on earth  
will be bound in heaven,  
and whatever you loose  
on earth will be loosed  
in heaven

v.19 If two of you on earth...

v.20 Where two or three  
are gathered in my name,  
there am I with them.

66  
Luke 10:1... 16

After this Jesus appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go....

v.16

He who listens to you listens to me;  
he who rejects you rejects me;  
but he who rejects me rejects him  
who sent me.

# 3 Kinds of Confession

## 1) Before God

Forgive us our trespasses

1 Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Ps 32:5 I will confess my transgressions to the Lord

Ps 19:12 Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

## 2) Before my neighbor

James 5:16 Confess your sins to each other

## 3) Before the pastor (as "God's ambassador")

Mt 18 and Mt 16 Whatever you loose on earth...

Jn 20:23 If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven

Lk 10:16 He who hears you, hears me.

How does the pastor know whether to forgive (unlock) or retain (lock) sins?

A. Does he look into the heart? No

B. Based on a person's confession.

If repentant, he forgives... If not, he retains

Ps 32:5 I will confess my transgressions to the Lord  
and you forgive the guilt of my sin.

1 TIM 1:8-10 We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful... and whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine.

Isaiah 61:1-3

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted to proclaim freedom for the captives, and release...

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C. Is the announcement of forgiveness true even if the person doesn't believe it?

YES

1 John 2:2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

John 3:16- For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Example:

1 Cor 5:3 I have already passed judgment  
13 Expel the wicked man from among you.

2 Cor 2:5

7 Now instead you ought to comfort him.

10 If you forgive anyone...