

Parenthood // Confession Absolution

This week, my youngest son, Solomon, got his driver's permit. Once again, I'm teaching one of my children how to drive. This made me reflect on all the things I've taught my children over the years. I've taught them how to ride bikes, play sports, solve problems, and have good manners (Ha!). And, although they'd say I've taught them how to swear, I'd like to think I've helped teach them the faith.

Today, we continue our series, "Parenthood". Proverbs 22:6 (ESV) says, "Train up a child in the way they should go; even when they are old they will not depart from it." Martin Luther said, "The head of the family should teach the faith (six chief Christian doctrines) in a simple way to their household." Today, let's talk about the importance of teaching our children about Confession and Absolution.

The Small Catechism says, "Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is forgiveness, from the pastor (or Christian) as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believe that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven." And, Martin Luther says, "When I urge you to go to confession, I am simply urging you to be a Christian."

In Getting to Know Jesus, Paul Schult says, "Confession = Genuine Repentance." We all, children included, are sinners. No? Have you ever been disobedient, unfaithful, lazy? Have you ever been hot-tempered, rude, quarrelsome? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, done any harm? Yes? Then, it's important we all genuinely acknowledge our sin and "turn around" in repentance.

In Getting to Know Jesus, Paul Schult says, "Absolution = Amazing Grace." Through faith in Jesus, our sins are absolutely forgiven before God in heaven! And, when we're reminded about this amazing grace from the Bible, a Pastor, a Christian, or from godly parents, we have a confident, comforting, and blessed assurance! For our families, may this confession and absolution become a way of life!

Let's pray. Lord, Luther's Small Catechism says (Reference to Matthew 18:15-19), "By divine ordinance, Christ himself has entrusted absolution to His Christian church and commanded us to absolve one another from sins." Lord, privately and publicly, may we all lament our sin and desire comfort and restoration for our souls. May You absolve our sins through Your Word/words of forgiveness.

Amen.

Scripture Reading(s)

“This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.” - 1 John 1:5-2:2 (ESV)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message Series

Parenthood

Message Topic

Teaching Confession and Absolution

Message Points

- C_____ = G_____ R_____ (Answers: Confession, Genuine, Repentance)
- A_____ = A_____ G_____ (Answers: Absolution, Amazing, Grace)

NOTES:

Memory Verse

“If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” - 1 John 1:9 (NIV)

Small Group Questions

- Icebreaker: It can be hard to be honest and vulnerable about about our sin? In what ways do you find it hard or easy to share your struggles?
- Read Psalm 130, 1 John 1:5-2:2. What do these verses teach us about our sin, our need to confess, and the absolute promise of forgiveness?
- Why did Martin Luther say, “The head of the family should teach about Confession and Absolution in a simple way to their household.”?

- This week we learned, “Confession = Genuine Repentance. Absolution = Amazing Grace.” Why is this so important for your family?
- Forgiveness is something we receive from God and His Word. Why can it be powerful to hear it from a Pastor, a Christian, or a godly parent?
- We sin against both God and others. Why is confession and absolution important in our relationships with both God and with others?

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