

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.”

What sins should we confess? “Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins that 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?”

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.’”

What do you believe according to these words? “I believe that when the called ministers of Christ exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins, this is just as valid and certain as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.”