

**Series Theme:** *Confession and Absolution – Part 6 of 6*

# “Christian Questions with their Answers”

Based on Various Passages  
*6<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of Lent – 2011*  
April 13 → 11:00 & 7:00

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ, we return one final time to the topic of **confession and absolution!** Today, we focus on the words from Christian Questions with their Answers in Luther’s Small Catechism:

## **Confession:**

P: (1) Do you believe that you are a sinner?

C: **Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.**

[David confessed: Psalm 51:5]

P: (2) How do you know this?

C: **From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.**

[Think about Martin Luther’s explanations!]

P: (3) Are you sorry for your sins?

C: **Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.**

[Remember, “sorry” includes a desire to stop!]

P: (4) What have you deserved from God because of your sins?

C: **His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation.**

[Our sins deserved death and hell!]

P: (5) Do you hope to be saved?

C: **Yes, that is my hope.**

[Blessed hope is anchored in God’s promises!]

P: (6) In whom then do you trust?

C: **In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.**

[Jesus – *the object of our faith*; we trust in Him!]

P: (7) Who is Christ?

C: **The Son of God, true God and true Man.**

[Martin Luther wrote and we agree: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.]

P: (8) How many God’s are there?

**C: Only one, but there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

[We confess in the Athanasian Creed: For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another. But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.]

P: (9) What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?

**C: He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.**

[Martin Luther wrote: He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil. Not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.]

P: (10) Did the Father also die for you?

**C: He did not. The Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is both true God and true man. He died for me and shed His blood for me.**

[Jesus said: <sup>NAU</sup> John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." *He said it and did it!*]

P: (11) How do you know this?

**C: From the holy Gospel, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the sacrament.**

[The Words of Institution used in our Lutheran Churches are a summary Jesus' words as recorded in Matthew (26:26-28); Mark (14:22-24); Luke (22:19-20); and 1 Corinthians (11:23-25).]

P: (12) These are the words of institution: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: *"Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."*

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: *"Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*

P: (13) Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the sacrament?

**C: Yes, I believe it.**

[Remember: *Faith is believing without seeing!* The Bible says:

<sup>NAU</sup> Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”]

P: (14) What convinces you to believe this?

C: **The word of Christ: Take, eat, this is My body; drink of it, all of you, this is My blood.**

[J. T. Mueller wrote: “The Lutherans...take the words [of Jesus] in their simple meaning...and trust that Christ, who made the promise, is able also to fulfill it. In this they follow the time-honored hermeneutic (interpretation) rule that we must not depart from the literal meaning of the text unless the text itself compels us to do so. The Lutheran doctrine therefore rests on Scriptural ground and is in agreement...with every other passage of Scripture that treats of the Holy Supper. (521)]

P: (15) What should we do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and in this way receive His pledge?

C: **We should remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His blood, as He taught us: *This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.*”**

[Yes, we remember, but we also receive His very body and blood by which He took away the sins of the world!]

P: (16) Why should we remember and proclaim His death?

C: **First, so we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins. Only Christ, true God and true Man, could do that. Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious. Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.**

[Though sin is powerful to eternally condemn, Christ alone has defeated sin, death, and hell; therefore, in Him alone we have true peace!]

P: (17) What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins?

C: **His great love for His Father, for me, and for other sinners.**

[Jesus said: <sup>NAU</sup> John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.” Therefore, wanting us to be His friends, He gave His life for us!]

P: (18) Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?

C: **That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love,**

died for my sin, and also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.

[The Bible says: <sup>NAU</sup> 1 John 4:19 "We love, because He first loved us." As God took action to take away our sins, so we in turn take action to follow His Word and help people in need!]

P: (19) What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?

C: **First**, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. **Second**, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.

[Jesus said: *Do this in remembrance of Me and for the forgiveness of your sins.* Therefore, knowing we sin often, we also desire to be assured often of God's forgiveness through Jesus!]

### **Absolution:**

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: (20) But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?

C: **To such a person no better advice can be given than this:** **First**, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. **Second**, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble. **Third**, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without.

[By God's grace let us see our sin and the spiritual battle in which we are engaged; then, *hungering and thirsting for the Sacrament*, let us *gladly and frequently* receive and benefit!]