

## An Open Gate

Office of the Keys and Confession

Lesson 18

Before starting a discussion of the Office of the Keys and Confession, work through the following sentences to determine the meanings of the underlined words. These words will be a part of the discussion this week.

Circle the letter of the best meaning for the underlined word.

1. Kim was feeling very penitent about lying to her teacher.
  - A. proud of her ability to "pull one over" on someone
  - B. deeply affected by a sense of guilt
  - C. angry because of being caught in the wrong
  
2. Beverly could not repent for getting angry with her sister.
  - A. feel regret
  - B. be happy
  - C. become upset
  
3. The man no longer wished to retain his old car, so he got rid of it.
  - A. to continue to keep in possession
  - B. to make extensive repairs on
  - C. to pay high insurance premiums on
  
4. Valerie remained impenitent about sneaking out of the house against her parents' wishes.
  - A. silent and secretive
  - B. angry and hostile
  - C. lacking sorrow about doing something wrong
  
5. When the fugitive was caught, he made a full confession of the crime.

- A. picture
- B. admission of wrong doing
- C. a collection of excuses

6. The members of the band who broke curfew were admonished by the band director.

- A. banned from further performances
- B. punished
- C. gently told of their wrong doing

7. The man was absolved of all guilt in the death of his brother.

- A. freed and pardoned
- B. overcome with
- C. wrongly accused

Based on the vocabulary meaning determined above, what would a penitent sinner be?

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What would an impenitent sinner be? \_\_\_\_\_

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### Office of the Keys

What two things do keys do? 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Read John 20:21-23. What two things are the disciples, by the power of the Holy Spirit, empowered to do?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

How do these things match up with the two functions of keys?

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Match the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Sins are to be forgiven      A. Penitent sinner

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Sins are to be retained      B. Impenitent sinner

Who do you think has the power of the office of the keys?

\_\_\_\_\_

Who has the authority to forgive sins on behalf of the entire congregation?

\_\_\_\_\_

Do Christians ever sin? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Acts 3:19. What should we do when we sin? \_\_\_\_\_

Now read I John 1:9. What should we also do when we sin? \_\_\_\_\_

How do we know that we are forgiven? \_\_\_\_\_

Look at page 223 in *Luther's Small Catechism*.

What is the result of repentance and forgiveness of sins? \_\_\_\_\_

Notice the order. We do good works because we are forgiven, not to achieve forgiveness.

Look up Mark 16:15. What is the job of the church?

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the result of the preaching and teaching of the Gospel?

\_\_\_\_\_

Read Matthew 18:17. If a member of the church has been admonished for a sin and still refuses to repent, what should the church do to him?

\_\_\_\_\_

Why should the church do this?

A. To show him he must be punished for doing wrong.

B. To let him know sin is very serious so that he might yet repent and be

restored to fellowship with God.

C. Because the church does not have time to deal with him.

### Confession

Confession has two parts. One part we do and the other God does.

What is the part that we do? \_\_\_\_\_

The second part of confession is what God does after we do the first part.

What does God do? \_\_\_\_\_

There are three kinds of confession.

1. We confess our sin to \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven.
2. We confess our sin to the \_\_\_\_\_ we have sinned against.
3. We confess our sin to another Christian or to our \_\_\_\_\_

The first two types of confession are commanded in the Bible and need to be practiced.

Look up 1 John 1:8,9. What are we to do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Now look up Proverbs 28:13. What does it say? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Read Psalm 19:12 and refer back to Proverbs 28:13.

Which sins are we to confess to God? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

God likewise commands confession to a person when we have done that person a wrong.

Read Matthew 5:22-26. What does this say? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Now read Luke 15:18. What does the prodigal son plan to tell his father?

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Should we confess all our sins to a person we have wronged or only the sin we have done against him?

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The third type of confession is not commanded in the Bible, but can be of great value.

This type of confession is confessing a troublesome sin to another Christian or to our pastor. Sometimes, telling someone of a sin that is especially burdensome can be of help in our getting over our sin. Hearing someone else tell us of the forgiveness we have in Christ can ease our conscience. Satan would love to have us feel our sins are "too great" to be forgiven. This is not true, and sometimes we need to hear that from another person.