

83. The Confession of Sin

We should confess all our sins to God every day and trust that He forgives them for the sake of Christ. We are to confess to our neighbors the sins with which we have offended them.

In order to administer the peace of the forgiveness of sins, God has also decreed confession for His congregation. Therein we confess our sins to a pastor or other member of the congregation, and he will proclaim absolution, or forgiveness, on the basis of God's Word.

"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions." (Psa. 51:1)

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." (Prov. 28:13)

"And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained." (John 20:22, 23)