

CONFESSION – God’s Gift to Us

Although important throughout the year, confession is a particular focus in the season of Lent. Let’s take a moment to examine confession. (This is an outline of my Ash Wednesday sermon, for those who missed it).

Confession consists of two parts:

- I. Confessing – the act of expressing our sinfulness
 - A. Things we’re sorry we did
 - B. Wrongs we don’t know we’ve done
 - C. Things we’ve left undone
- II. Absolution – words of forgiveness that absolve
 - A. Someone speaks the words, at Christ’s command
 - B. We hear the words of grace and mercy

Confession is accomplished two ways:

- I. Corporate – the gathered assembly in worship
 - A. We need to hear it often
 - B. We need to hear it together
- II. Individual – private with a pastor and/or confessor
 - A. Sometimes we need to hear it as a personal word
 - B. Sometimes we need to name our sin to another
 - C. I’m available by appointment for Individual Confession

Confession is of two things:

- I. Fears
 - A. Things we’re afraid we did
 - B. Things we’re embarrassed or ashamed that we did
- II. Tears
 - A. Mistakes and things we are sorry we did
 - B. Addictions and other things we cannot stop doing

Confession helps us to see – not beyond our tears and fears – but through them. Just as light is refracted in water – acting like a lens or a prism – so too are the tears of confession and the waters of baptism. Our sins are reflected back like in a mirror, but our selves and our souls are refracted through – changed and viewed differently by the grace of the Savior and Redeemer.

These 40 days of Lent are a time of reflection – a time of spiritual discipline – devotion to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

These 40 days are a time of refraction as we see the world differently through the Cross, through the fears and the tears, to the empty tomb and the hope and joy of Easter morning.

Wishing you each a blessed and penitent Lent,

Pastor Chris