

The Small Catechism's Table of Duties

December 29, 2013

TABLE OF DUTIES (Continued)

*consisting of certain passages of Scriptures, selected
for various estates and condition of me, by
which they may be admonished to do
their respective duties.*

V. Confession

How Christians should be taught to confess.

What is Confession?*

Confession embraces two parts: the one is, that we confess our sins; the other, **that we receive absolution, or forgiveness, from the confessor, as from God Himself, and in no wise doubt, but firmly believe, that our sins are thereby forgiven before God in heaven.**

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even of those which we do not know, as we do in the Lord's Prayer. But before the confessor we should confess those sins alone which we know and feel in our hearts (Romans 7.7f).

Which are these?

Here consider your station according to the Ten Commandments, whether you are a father, mother, son, daughter, master, mistress, a man-servant or maid-servant; whether you have been disobedient, unfaithful, slothful; whether you have grieved any one by words or deeds; whether you have stolen, neglected, or wasted aught, or done other injury.

*Was not included by Luther, but reflects his teachings on the subject. This appeared in many Catechisms during Luther's lifetime.



I. First Commandment: Vocation? _____

A. Sin. . . _____ ; What did I love more than God as a (insert voc.).

. . . First Use: Harm Caused / Benefit lost (regret despair)

. . . Second Use: How is God thus offended/blasphemed? (fear of losing God/need grace)

. . . Third Use: God's will is my (regenerate) will.

B. Where does confession/absolution fit in here?