



“THEREFORE I SAY TO YOU, HER SINS, WHICH ARE MANY, ARE FORGIVEN, FOR SHE LOVED MUCH.” – LUKE 7:42

A SAVING CONFESSION

INTRODUCTION

- ✘ Does all confession save?
 - + Judas
- ✘ What are some rules for a saving confession?
- ✘ What are the common objections to confession?

OBJECTIONS

1. “I’m so sinful! Can God forgive my sins?”

- + The believer doubts God’s ability to transform their life.
- + *“The power of repentance is based on the power of God. The Doctor is all-powerful, and the Medicine given by Him is all-powerful.”* (Bishop Ignatius Brianchaninov)
- + *“Repentance is a medicine which destroys sin. It is a heavenly gift, a marvelous force which through the grace of God conquers the might and strictness of the laws. It accepts all and transforms all. It does not reject the fornicator, does not send away the adulterer, is not disgusted with the drunkard, does not loathe the idolater, does not neglect the slanderer, does not persecute the reviler nor the haughty man: it regenerates everybody because it is a furnace for purification from sin.”* (St. John Chrysostom)

OBJECTIONS

2. “Why go to confession? I have no special sins.”

- + Opposite to #1
- + There is a lack of realization of wickedness
- + 1 Jn. 1:8 – “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”
- + *“It is truly a gift of God – to be able to see your sins in their multitude and in all their loathsomeness.”* (Fr. John of Kronstadt)

OBJECTIONS

3. “Why confess if I know I will sin again?”

- + This objection contains something that is good
- + Should I thus surrender to vice?
- + Why should I play this game of rising and falling?

OBJECTIONS

4. “Why must I confess before a priest?”

- + Confession is a mystery
- + Benefits from confessing to a priest
 - × Humbles us
 - × Cures our pride
 - × Instills in us shame and fear, thus protects us from future sins
 - × Gives us access to the experiences of many believers

OBJECTIONS

5. “I’ll go to the priest to have him read me the Absolution.”

- + Sacrilegious use of Confession
- + This practice does not facilitate my healing
- + James 5:15 – “Confess your trespasses to one another...”

RULES FOR A SAVING CONFESSION

- ✘ What should I do before, during, and after confession?
- ✘ BEFORE
 1. Have faith in God's mercy
 2. Abandon the proponents and promoters of sin
 3. Reconcile with those whom you have injured
 - ✘ Matt. 5:23-24 – “Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”
 4. Prepare for confession
 5. Go to the priest

RULES FOR A SAVING CONFESSION

× DURING

- + Remember you have come to Christ's infirmary
- + Make no excuses
- + Do not consciously conceal anything
- + Confess briefly, but precisely
- + Do not reveal other's sins, but try to conceal them
- + Do not boast
- + Have a sincere desire not to sin again

RULES FOR A SAVING CONFESSION

× AFTER

- + If there is any enmity with anyone, forgive them with all your heart
 - × How would you like heaven if that person you hate were there?
- + Be committed to giving up roads that lead to sin
- + Return that which does not belong to you