

CONFESSION

1994 CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

1. A PRIEST IS NECESSARY FOR FORGIVENESS OF SIN

Confession to a priest is an essential part of the sacrament of Penance. (No. 1456)

Only priests who have received the faculty of absolving from the authority of the church can forgive sins in the name of Christ. (No. 1495)

It is called the Sacrament of Confession, since the disclosure or confession of sins to a priest is an essential element of this sacrament. (No. 1424)

2. THE CHURCH AND GOD MUST BE RECOMPENSED

One who desires to obtain reconciliation with God and with the Church, must confess to a priest all the unconfessed, grave sin he remembers after having carefully examined his conscience. (No. 1493)

There is no offence however serious that the Church cannot forgive. (No. 982)

3. TRADITIONS BIND THE CATHOLIC TO THE CHURCH

According to the Church's command, 'after having attained the age of discretion each of the faithful is **bound by an obligation** faithfully to confess serious sins at least once a year.' (No. 1457)

4. CONFESSION IS A NECESSARY AID TO SALVATION

The Fathers of the Church present this sacrament as the second plank (of Salvation). (No. 1446)

Were there no forgiveness of sins in the Church, there would be no hope of life to come or eternal liberation. Let us thank God who has given his church such a gift. (No. 983)

SCRIPTURES RESPONSE

1. The Priest is NOT our Mediator

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; (1 Tim. 2:5)

2. The Church has NO power to forgive sin

Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only? (Mark 2:7)

3. Forgiveness is found only in Christ

*If we confess our sins, **He** is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)*

4. Salvation is in the blood of Christ

*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation **received by tradition from your fathers**; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (1 Pet. 1:18-19)*

5. Peter Never Forgave Sin

Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. (Acts 8:22)

6. Our Advocate and Forgiver

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 Jn 1:9_2:2)

Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. (Acts 13:38-39)

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, (Rom 8:1)

*He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
(John 3:18)*