

Home Group Notes

Prayers of the Communion Service 1

Confession

The time of confession is an important aspect to our communion services. It is a time to examine ourselves, before God, that we may receive communion in a worthy manner.
(c.f. 1 Corinthians 11:28)

1. Who is worthy to receive communion?
2. Why is it important to examine ourselves before communion?

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you, through our own fault, in thought, and word, and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are heartily sorry, and repent of all our sins.	Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
---	--

3. What do you understand 'sin' to be?
4. What is meant by 'we', when we say that 'we have sinned...'?
5. Is all sin against God?
(c.f. Matthew 25:44-45; Acts 9:4-6)
6. Is sin always our own fault? What about those born into difficult circumstances? Can there ever be an excuse for acting sinfully? How can we be responsible for our sin if we can't help it?

7. Is there anything that you have left undone that you know, before God, needs doing?
 - Individually
 - As a church
 - Nationally
8. What do you understand by the word 'repent'? How costly can repentance be? Is it worth it?
(c.f. Luke 19:8-9; Acts 2:38)

For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen	In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen
--	---

9. Why is it for Jesus' sake that we should be forgiven? What does the cross achieve?
10. Christians often stand accused of "banging on" about sin. Does going on about sin just cause us to feel unnecessary guilt?
11. God's holiness exposes sin. His wrath opposes it. His love offers forgiveness from it. Wrath and love two sides of the same God. What view of God underlies our prayers of confession?
12. In response to these confessions, what should our attitude be towards God, ourselves and others?

For today's prayer, pray both prayers of confession, acknowledging our own sin, the sin of the church and a society, and being aware of who we are before God. Pray for graciousness and a spirit of reconciliation between us. Thank God for his love, mercy and forgiveness.