

# The Augsburg Confession of 1530

## Article XXV: Confession

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- ❖ Confession in the churches is not abolished among us. The body of the Lord is not usually given to those who have not been examined [1 Corinthians 11:27–28] and absolved.



# 1 Corinthians 11:27-28

✚ “Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.”

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❖ “... The people are very carefully taught about faith in the Absolution. Before, there was profound silence about faith. <sup>3</sup> Our people are taught that they should highly prize the Absolution as being God’s voice and pronounced by God’s command....”

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❖ “... The Power of the Keys [Matthew 16:19] is set forth in its beauty....”

✚ **Matthew 16:19** “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

# **ROMAN CATHOLIC CONFESSIONS ARE THEY BIBLICAL ?**

OF ALL PRACTICES THAT WERE EVER DEvised BY MAN, IN THE NAME OF RELIGION, I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT NONE WAS EVER DEvised SO MISCHIEVOUS AND OBJECTIONABLE AS THE CONFESSIOAL. **IT OVERTHROWS CHRIST'S OFFICE, AND PLACES MAN IN THE SEAT WHICH SHOULD ONLY BE OCCUPIED BY THE SON OF GOD. IT PUTS TWO SINNERS IN A THOROUGHLY WRONG POSITION. IT EXALTS THE CONFESSOR FAR TOO HIGH. IT PLACES THOSE WHO CONFESS FAR TOO LOW, IT GIVES THE CONFESSOR A PLACE WHICH IS NOT SAFE FOR ANY CHILD OF ADAM TO OCCUPY.** IT IMPOSES ON THOSE WHO CONFESS A BONDAGE TO WHICH IT IS NOT SAFE FOR ANY CHILD OF ADAM TO SUBMIT. IT SINKS ONE POOR SINNER INTO THE DEGRADING ATTITUDE OF A SERF. IT RAISES ANOTHER POOR SINNER INTO A DANGEROUS MASTERY OVER HIS BROTHER'S SOUL. IT MAKES THE CONFESSOR LITTLE LESS THAN A GOD. IT MAKES THOSE WHO CONFESS LITTLE BETTER THAN SLAVES. IF YOU LOVE CHRISTIAN LIBERTY, IF YOU VALUE INWARD PEACE, REMEMBER THE ADVICE I GIVE YOU THIS DAY. BEWARE, BEWARE OF THE SLIGHTEST APPROACH TO THE ROMISH CONFESSIOAL!

**JC RYLE**  
**DO YOU CONFESS?**



**REFORMED SPIRIT**

## James 5:16

✝ “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

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❖ “... They are reminded what great consolation it brings to anxious consciences and that God requires faith to believe such Absolution as a voice sounding from heaven [e.g., John 12:28–30]. ...”



# John 12:28-30

✚ “Father, glorify your name!” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine.”

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❖ “... They are taught that such faith in Christ truly obtains and receives the forgiveness of sins. Before, satisfactions were praised without restraint, but little was said about faith, Christ’s merit, and the righteousness of faith....”

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❖ “... Therefore, on this point, our churches are by no means to be blamed. Even our adversaries have to concede the point that our teachers have diligently taught the doctrine of repentance and laid it open....”

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❖ “... Our churches teach that naming every sin is not necessary and that consciences should not be burdened with worry about naming every sin....”

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❖ “... It is impossible to recount all sins, as Psalm 19:12 testifies: “Who can discern his errors?”<sup>8</sup> Also Jeremiah 17:9, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”...”

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❖ “... If only sins that can be named are forgiven, consciences could never find peace. For many sins cannot be seen or remembered. The ancient writers also testify that a listing of sins is not necessary....”

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- ❖ For in the Decrees, Chrysostom is quoted. He says, “I do not say that you should make your sins known in public, nor that you should accuse yourself before others, but I would have you obey the prophet who says, ‘Make known your ways before God’ [Psalm 37:5]. Therefore, confess your sins before God, the true Judge, with prayer. Tell your errors, not with the tongue, but with the memory of your conscience, and so forth.”

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- ❖ “... And the Gloss (*Of Repentance, Distinct. V, Cap. Consideret*) admits that Confession is of human right only. <sup>13</sup> Nevertheless, because of the great benefit of Absolution, and because it is otherwise useful to the conscience, Confession is retained among us.”