

Blind Spots

Week 3 / 4.18.2021

We've all got blind spots in our journey of faith, which is one of the reasons God has gifted us with sisters and brothers in Christ to speak truth into our lives. Sometimes our blind spot need a corrective or challenging word, to speak a truth we might not want to hear. Sometimes our blind spot needs an encouraging and healing word, to speak a truth that we desperately need to hear because we aren't able to speak it to ourselves.

Jesus says “repent and believe the Gospel.” This most basic of Christian messages is loaded with both importance as well as gaps in our understanding. During this study, we will be diving into the truths of Scripture about our blind spots and learning how God calls us to walk together in Christ by faith.

Article XXV. Of Confession

Confession in the churches is not abolished among us; for it is not usual to give the body of the Lord, except to them that have been previously examined and absolved. And the people are most carefully taught concerning faith in the absolution, about which formerly there was profound silence. Our people are taught that they should highly prize the absolution, as being the voice of God, and pronounced by God's command. The power of the Keys is set forth in its beauty and they are reminded what great consolation it brings to anxious consciences, also, that God requires faith to believe such absolution as a voice sounding from heaven, and that such faith in Christ truly obtains and receives the forgiveness of sins.

Aforetime satisfactions were immoderately extolled; of faith and the merit of Christ and the righteousness of faith no mention was made; wherefore, on this point, our churches are by no means to be blamed. For this even our adversaries must needs concede to us that the doctrine concerning repentance has been most diligently treated and laid open by our teachers.

But of Confession they teach that an enumeration of sins is not necessary, and that consciences be not burdened with anxiety to enumerate all sins, for it is impossible to recount all sins, as the [Psalm 19:13](#) testifies: “Who can understand his errors?” Also [Jeremiah 17:9](#): “The heart is deceitful; who can know it?” But if no sins were forgiven, except those that are recounted, consciences could never find peace; for very many sins they neither see nor can remember. The ancient writers also testify that an enumeration is not necessary. For in the Decrees, Chrysostom is quoted, who says thus: I say not to you that you should disclose yourself in public, nor that you accuse yourself before others, but I would have you obey the prophet who says: “Disclose thy way before God.” 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, etc.

And the Gloss (Of Repentance, Distinct. V, Cap. Consideret) admits that Confession is of human right only [not commanded by Scripture, but ordained by the Church]. Nevertheless, on account of the great benefit of absolution, and because it is otherwise useful to the conscience, Confession is retained among us.