

Holy Communion: Biblical Doctrine; Local Practice

June 2, 2013



And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Mt. 28.18f

Catechism: **Teaching them to observe (*tyrein*) all things I have commanded you.**

- A. 10 Commandments (Law)
Creed (Gospel - revelation of God/faith/confession)
Lord's Prayer (fruit of faith - prayer)
- B. Baptism (Gospel applied)
Confession/Absolution – Office of the Keys (Gospel applied)
Lord's Supper (Gospel applied)

A. The Catechism used to be referred to as the “layman’s Bible” because it was a short and pithy summary of the doctrines of the Christian faith; the teaching and confession of which saves in the saving Name of Jesus. Active faith is produced in the contrite (law believing) heart; the empty and good soil into which the Gospel (Creed - revelation of God and his grace) is sown and grows; the fruit of which is a child of God who can pray to his Father (through Christ) and is promised his hearing and every benefit from the One who knows how to give good gifts. All this comes down to us from the Catechism Luther inherited in Catholicism.

B. Due to the deficiencies in the “Marks of the Church,” that is, the visible Gospel of the Sacraments that resulted in the confessions of the same both on the part of Rome and the Radical Reformation, the last three chief parts were added. Why is the order of these sacraments in the Catechism important? How do all the parts play out in the life of the confirmed member of the church.

What is confirmation?!? (LSB p. 272 f). Is it a sacrament? What is it for? What are these public vows promising to God before the Church? Before the World?

Is the church wrong to ask for such a vow from young people? What about those who break this vow and join another confession of the Christian faith that is at odds to the confession of the Small Catechism?