

### WCF 14 & 15: FAITH & REPENTANCE

#### **Warm-Up Question:**

We've talked about Being Chosen, Adoption, Justification and Sanctification. Give a brief definition for each of these so that a 9 year old might understand it.

If you are a Christian, why would you say you are? What makes you one?

**READ: Galatians 2:20; Acts 2:37-38**

#### **I. A Good Confession: FAITH**

- ▶ Faith is NOT a mere feeling divorced from truth, conviction void of evidence, or a mental attitude. Discuss people you know that have faith like these but are probably not Christians.
- ▶ If FAITH is “acknowledging the truth in the Bible and staking your life on it,” what truths must we believe to be a Christian? Read through the [Apostles Creed](#) (click on link or google it) and discuss.
- ▶ Discuss the difference in the elements of FAITH, including knowledge, ascent, and submission. Which one do you most struggle with?
- ▶ Ray described FAITH as a marriage to God. In what ways does this make sense? In what ways do you personally identify with your faith being like a marriage to God?

#### **II. A Good Confession: REPENTANCE**

- ▶ If faith is running TO God, repentance is running FROM what?
- ▶ Martin Luther said the “entire life of believers to be one of repentance.” What area(s) of life do you find you constantly need to repent of?
- ▶ What is shallow and false repentance? Can you think of a time (or pattern) where you demonstrated shallow or false repentance?
- ▶ What would change if you believed you were the greatest sinner in the room (in your marriage, as a parent, as a boss or employee, etc)?
- ▶ [READ] Rom. 2:4 and discuss what enables you to repent. Describe moments where God's kindness has led you to repentance.

#### **WCF 14: Of Saving Faith**

1. The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts; and is ordinarily wrought by the ministry of the Word: by which also, and by the administration of the sacraments, and prayer, it is increased and strengthened.
2. By this faith, a Christian believes to be true whatsoever is revealed in the Word, for the authority of God Himself speaking therein; and acts differently, upon that which each particular passage thereof contains; yielding obedience to the commands, trembling at the threatenings, and embracing the promises of God for this life, and that which is to come. But the principal acts of saving faith are, accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.
3. This faith is different in degrees, weak or strong; may be often and many ways assailed and weakened, but gets the victory; growing up in many to the attainment of a full assurance through Christ, who is both the author and finisher of our faith.

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