

## Confession

How should a Christian deal with his daily sins? According to Catholic teaching, he should confess his sins to a priest:

If anyone denies that the sacramental confession was instituted, and is necessary for salvation, by divine Law; or says that the manner of confessing secretly to a priest alone, which the Catholic Church has always observed from the beginning and still observes, is at variance with the institution and command of Christ and is a human invention, anathema sit (Trent XIV session).

The Catholic Church claims that Christ instituted secret confession to a priest and that this has been practiced from the beginning. This is simply not true. The recent Catechism of the Catholic Church admits that secret confession to a priest was a new practice introduced in the seventh century.

"During the seventh century Irish missionaries, inspired by the Eastern monastic tradition, took to continental Europe the 'private' practice of penance, which does not require public and prolonged completion of penitential works before reconciliation with the Church. From that time on, the sacrament has been performed in secret between penitent and priest. This new practice envisioned the possibility of repetition and so opened the way to a regular frequenting of this sacrament" (paragraph 1447).

Since private and secret confession was introduced seven hundred years after Christ, how can you also accept that it was observed from the beginning? The Catholic is forced to believe a historical lie; otherwise he will be accursed!

The Lord Jesus told us how we ought to deal with our daily sins. He taught us to pray:

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

"Our Father which art in heaven...forgive us our debts." Since the beginning of the church until the present day, his disciples sought and received forgiveness directly from their heavenly Father. God is not deaf and He graciously welcomes His children and hears their prayers for forgiveness.

Each one of us must make a choice. We either follow the late inventions of human tradition and confess to a priest, or else, we obey the Lord Jesus and ask the Father for forgiveness.