

The Augsburg Confession *Talking About Faith with Family and Friends*



Karl V. wird die Confessio Augustana von den Unterzeichnern übergeben (Windsheimer Konfessionsbild, 1601)

Article XI: Of Confession

Discussion: How should a sin of anger, abuse, or adultery be confessed? How should a sin of pride, complacency, or jealousy be confessed? Is the sin, when confessed, completely forgiven, erased, expunged, and pardoned forever?

"Of Confession they (our Lutheran churches) teach that Private Absolution ought to be retained in the churches, although in confession an enumeration of all sins is not necessary. For it is impossible according to the Psalm: *"Who can understand his errors? Forgive my hidden faults."* [Ps. 19:12](#).

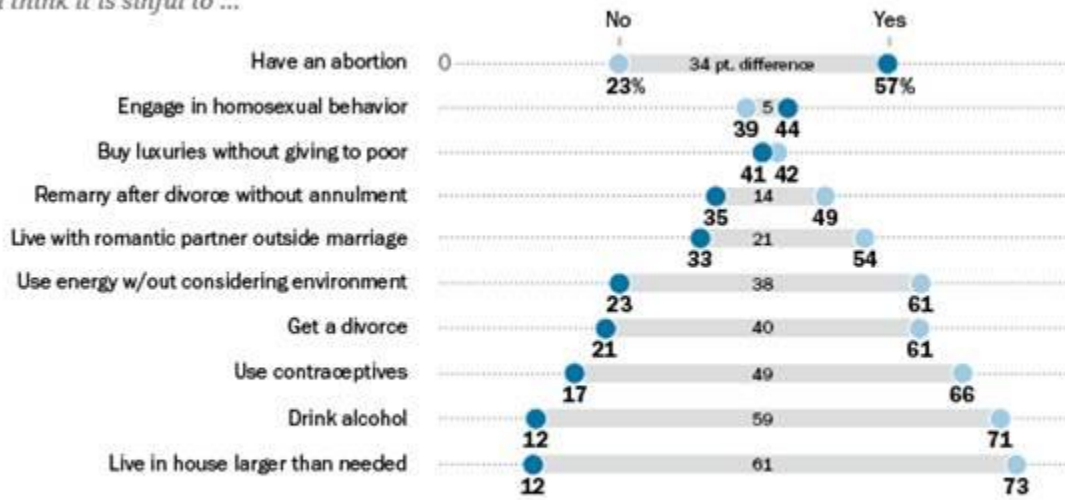
Importance: Although Lutherans accept corporate confession in the context of the worship service, they also teach that private or individual confession is helpful. However, the Lutheran Church does not require listing all sins or specific sins. Luther's contribution to church history in the Reformation is that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ on the cross forgave all sins for all people! He who believes and is baptized is saved!" There are no rules, no indulgences to purchase, no fasts, no pilgrimages - just faith! But repentance, baptism, obedience, worship, evangelism, Bible study, praying are the dividends of faith.

"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

(Mark 16:16)

According to U.S. Catholics, Which Behaviors Are Sinful?

Do you think it is sinful to ...



Source: Pew Research Center Survey of U.S. Catholics and Family Life, May 5–June 7, 2015. Figures do not add to 100%; those who say they don't believe in the concept of sin and those saying they don't know whether each behavior is sinful are not shown.

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