



the
christian
life



confirmation

a guide to knowing the Truth
continuing on the Way
and living the Life of Jesus

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life"

John 14:6

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The gospel is not just information about Christ, or about the cross, or even about salvation. It is the proclamation of God's provision in Christ, which must lead to a changed life.

The gospel causes us to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ; it provides us with an increasing discernment of God's will for his people; and just as importantly, it will produce an active and visible response to the Cross (Matthew 7:24-26).

We need to learn **the gospel** in order to be conformed to the image of Christ ...

John R.W. Stott

/ What is confirmation



The word confirmation comes from a latin word: confirmare. This word means to declare, to encourage, or to strengthen. All of these things are going on when someone gets confirmed. At your confirmation you are declaring your faith and being encouraged. And it's not just for you as an individual! Confirmation is a chance for your church family to celebrate God's work in you. When you stand up on your own two feet and declare that you believe the gospel, your church family gets to rejoice in your faith! Confirmation is not a magic ceremony, but it can be a great encouragement to you for the rest of your Christian life. A verse in the Bible that people often relate to confirmation comes from Hebrews 13:15-16

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise — the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Confirmation, as a public profession of your faith, is putting the fruit of God's work in your life on display for all to see. And God uses this to strengthen you and to strengthen his church. This will then help you to do good and share with others.

The confirmation classes are designed for your encouragement and strengthening too. Over a few weeks we will consider the three traditional elements of Christian instruction: the **Apostles' Creed**, the **10 Commandments**, and the **Lord's Prayer**. We will study these things, not just to fill you up with knowledge, but to fill you up with the courage and strength you need to keep trusting, loving and following Jesus as your Lord for all your days.


We hope that through these confirmation lessons and the service God will build you up with his love and the love of the whole church.

1 Knowing the Truth

The Apostles' Creed

The Word of God

Christ the Truth



Read the Creed. Circle/underline/highlight the THREE things that stand out to you most from this summary of Christian belief

I believe in God the Father Almighty
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose from the dead.
He ascended into heaven.
He is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there he shall judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the **TRUTH** and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

JOHN 14:6

How do the following verses teach us that Jesus is the truth?

John 11:1-3

John 1:14-18

Colossians 1:15-20

Philippians 3:7-11

Revelation 1:4-8

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (*Ephesians 3:17-19*)



2 Following the Way

The 10 Commandments

The Law and the gospel

Christ the Way

Read the 10 Commandments from Exodus 20. If you had to group the different sections of this chapter into a few different categories or sections, how would you break it up?

20 And God spoke all these words:

² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³ "You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² "Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ "You shall not murder.

¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ "You shall not steal.

¹⁶ "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.

¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour." Exodus 20:1-17



Find and read **Galatians 5:13-26**

What does this passage say about how Christians relate to God's law?

*What difference does the Holy Spirit make in the Christian life?
How does the fruit image help us understand this better?*

There are two big lists in this passage: the acts of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit. How have you seen God growing you in resisting the flesh and walking in step with the Spirit?

What are a few areas you could grow in walking with the Spirit?

Jesus answered, “I am the **WAY** and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” **JOHN 14:6**

The 10 Commandments are a character portrait of Jesus, *the true Son of God*. They lay out the path of imitating God because they lay out the path of imitating Christ. Augustine wrote that the commandments, “foretold and foreshadowed Christ.” As Irenaeus said, *Christ* fulfils the law that he spoke from Sinai. The law exposes our sin, restrains the unruly, provides a guide to life.

But Jesus is the heart and soul of the 10 Commandments. The first use of the law is to *point us to Christ*.

Many centuries after Sinai, God poured out his Spirit. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit wrote the Law “not on stone but on the heart” (see 2 Corinthians 3:3). He forms a new Israel. God makes us His sons and daughters; we share Jesus’ Spirit of sonship. By that Spirit, the father fulfils his ten new-creative words *in us*.

Peter Leithart, THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

(with some adjustments)

Looking back at Exodus 20, how do we see Jesus perfectly living out God’s good law as God’s perfect Son?

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ — to the glory and praise of God. (*Philippians 1:9-11*)

/ 3 Living the Life

The Lord's Prayer

Faith and works

Christ the Life



Read the Lord's Prayer. What does this prayer teach us about:

- *God?*
- *The World?*
- *Ourselves?*

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be
your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now
and forever. Amen.



Find and read **John 17**


Some people call this chapter The Lord's Lord's Prayer!

What similarities do you notice between Jesus' prayer in John 17 and the prayer Jesus taught his disciples?

How does Jesus define eternal life in verse 3?

How is this different to the way we can sometimes think of eternal life?

It's quite amazing that Jesus prays for everyone who will believe in him in the future — which includes us! What does this teach us about our own prayers, and our whole Christian lives?



Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the **LIFE**. No one comes to the Father except through me.” **JOHN 14:6**

What do the following verses teach us about Jesus and the Christian life:

John 15:1-17

Romans 8:1-11

Galatians 2:19-21


Colossians 1:24-29

1 John 5:13-21

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

A Confirmation Project

Together in the church



Confirmation is about you and the faith God has given you. But it's not JUST about you. It's also a moment for our whole church family to be encouraged and strengthened together. In fact, immediately after you declare your faith in Christ, the congregation will declare their commitment to support you in your life as a follower of Jesus. In the same way, we will all say the Apostles' Creed together, underscoring the fact that we all share in the same faith. We believe in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The main idea is you are confirmed as member of a church family, into a fellowship of brothers and sisters who are all walking together as disciples. With all of that in mind, we want the confirmation preparation to reflect the fact that confirmation is a "team sport". Which leads us to your confirmation project.

The plan is for each of you who are being confirmed to meet up with an older Christian from our church family to share and pray with each other in the lead up to the confirmation service. We will help you arrange a partner. When you meet with them you will each answer the following questions:

1. How has God worked in your life so that you are trusting Jesus right now?
2. What do you most love about following Jesus?
3. What's a hard thing about being a Christian at this point in your life?
4. How can I pray for you at the moment?

When you've had a chance to chat and share, take the opportunity to pray for each other. Everyone who meets with you will have committed to pray for you into the future. Maybe you could do the same for them?

