

Confirmation Sunday 2017 Romans 5:8

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Jesus loves me!

This I know, for the Bible tells me so;

Little ones to him belong.

They are weak but he is strong.

Yes Jesus loves me!

Yes Jesus loves me!

Yes Jesus loves me!

The Bible tells me so!

This is the day the Lord has made

Let us Rejoice and be Glad in it.

Today is your confirmation day.

You look so grown up in your robes and ties and new shoes.

Behind you sit your parents and grandparents, family and friends

And they are so proud of you.

And happy that today the promises, which they made as parents and sponsors at your Baptisms, are now at least partially fulfilled.

And they are wondering where all the time has gone since those baby pictures were taken.

Most of all, they love you.

And I love you. You are my last confirmation class at Our Savior's and I will forever hold you in my heart.

And best of all Jesus loves you.

That is probably the first lesson you learned in Sunday school. That's why we sang it in the children's sermon.

So let's sing another verse.

Verse 2

I love Jesus. Does He know?

Have I ever told Him so?

He would like to hear me say,

That I love Him every day.

Yes, I love Jesus!

Yes, I love Jesus!

Yes, I love Jesus!

Because He first loved me!

The Bible verse I chose for your confirmation day is:

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

This is one of the great love verses in the Bible and I want you to remember that wherever life takes you, **whatever joys and whatever challenges, Jesus loves you. Dearly and unconditionally.**

Each of you is a loved child of God. That's God's grace.

However, I also want you to **remember the uncomfortable truth, that you are also sinners.** We don't really like that idea. If you were to write down a list of words that describe you, I bet most of you wouldn't include sinner. Early in your 7th grade confirmation classes I told you something like, *"You are such good kids; you try hard, most of the time you are kind to your family, good to animals and*

*you even remember to say please and thank you...but, and this is really important, but you are also **Sinners!** 😊*

I am a sinner and you are a sinner.

Say it with me now.

I'm a sinner! **I'm a Sinner.**

You are a sinner,

My parents are sinners

Pastor Mode is a sinner.

Ooooooooooh! Wasn't that fun! Kind of freeing!

We all have sinning stories, some are funny, some shameful, some cruel, some rebellious. Sometimes during my sermons I have you turn to your neighbor to share a thought.

Relax I'm not going to ask you today to turn to your neighbor to tell a sinning story.

But we are asked to turn to God to tell him our sinning stories and that is called confession.

In confirmation, I wanted you to understand that **we are by nature sinful.** Even when we are getting things right, we need God's forgiveness.

We can't get to breakfast without sinning.

It's not about all of the things we do or not do but it is about our broken relationship with God. God is God.

We want to be God but we are not God.

That's what it means to live in a fallen world.

And that's why we need Jesus! Jesus died to give us forgiveness of sin.

Let's sing another verse.

Verse 3

Jesus loves me, this I know.

For He died His love to show.

When I know he took my sin,

He forgives and saves me then.

Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

He took away my sin!

So yes you are a sinner but here is the thing, because of Jesus, you are also saints! Yep saints.

Saint Abigail, St. Riley, St. Blake, St. Grace, St. Samantha, St. Mackenzie, St. Olyvia, St. Nathan, St. Collin, St. Nickolas, St. Evan, St. Maya, St. Colton, St. Johnathan!

By baptism into Jesus' death and resurrection, each of you are not only sinners but also saints.

So now say, I am a saint: ***I am a Saint!***

Now that doesn't mean you are perfect or that you have a halo over your head or that we will worship you on a special saint day

Being a saint isn't about what we do or don't do.

Being a saint is about who we are in relationship to God.

That's also true, by the way, of being a sinner. It's all about our relationship to God.

For Lutherans, a “saint” is as a forgiven sinner.

A forgiven sinner.

We are called saints not because we are perfect but because God’s love for us is perfect. Christ’s love and grace changes our relationship with God. Luther said: “*The saints are sinners, too, but they are forgiven and absolved.*”

When it comes to sinners and saints it is not “either or” but rather a “both and” kind of thing.

We are both sinner and saint at the same time.

Luther used the Latin phrase: “*Simul Justus et Peccator.*”

Which means “simultaneously saint and sinner”

It is all in how God sees us.

So sin is a little bit like falling flat on your face, like I did this week. Sometimes sin happens intentionally and sometimes it happens when we are careless or distracted. You are going along in life, maybe thinking you are doing everything right when suddenly you discover you have made a mess of it. That’s how sin is and we can’t avoid it.

When we sin, we won’t get 2 black eyes and 8 stitches but we are certainly marked by the sin.

There are consequences.

God knows the sin is there but looks at us through the love of Jesus and sees us as Saints, forgiven sinners.

One more final verse:

Verse 4

Jesus loves saints, even thee,
Hates the sin, but still loves ye;
Call Him Lord, and seek His face.
Come to Him and know His grace.

Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

So much he died for me!

So this morning is probably my last time to talk to you as a confirmation class. What I want you to remember from today is that you are both saint and sinner.

It is sort of my final instruction for you and of course it is all tied up in Jesus’ love.

Every year we give our confirmands gifts. This year, Marcie Kimmes and Karen Whitmer made them, and I think they are really cool.

They are mirrors and in that mirror I want you to see the loved child of God that you.

Above your reflection is the word sinner, to remind you of who you really are.

But here is the neat thing, when you turn the mirror upside down the word sinner becomes the word saint.

Because Jesus loves you, you are saint and sinner at the same time.

Simul Justus et Pecator.

This is good news for your confirmation day.

This is the good news of the gospel.