

FAMILY CONFIRMATION

Worksheet #26

“Office of the Keys”

Memory Work: What is the Office of the Keys? The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

1. What special authority has Christ given to His Church on earth? See Question 334.
2. Why do we refer to this authority as the power of the Keys? See Question 335.
3. Who is to be forgiven? Who is not to be forgiven? See Questions 336 & 337.
4. Who receives the forgiveness given in Absolution? See Question 338.
5. How is the Office of the Keys related to the proclamation of the Gospel? See Question 339.
6. What is excommunication and its purpose? See Question 340 & 341.
7. What is the responsibility of a congregation toward an excommunicated sinner who repents? See Question 343.
8. How does the Church publicly exercise the Office of the Keys? See Question 343.
9. What are the Biblical qualifications for pastors? See Questions 344, 346 & 347.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, You delivered Your Son for our offenses and raised Him for our justification. Grant that we may also trust in the word of forgiveness which You have given Your pastors to proclaim, that clinging to Your good and gracious promises, we might be brought to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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