

This is Confirmation Sunday at Trinity. We are proud to have 5 catechumens being Confirmed at a special 12:30 service, which will also include first communion. Although I have conducted many Confirmations over the years, I always give pause to the promises that are made.

These are:

P) Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

C) I do, by the grace of God.

P) Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

C) I do, by the grace of God.

P) Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

C) I do, by the grace of God.

I am sure that you are aware most people who are Confirmed do not keep these promises. In fact, we all break these promises in one way or another. But the question I struggle with is, why do people break their promises to God? After all, He has never broken a promise to us.

I know the simple answers. Well, He is God, and we are not. We are sinners and sinners sin. True enough! So, I must wonder, if we know most Confirmands will break these promises, why do we even ask them to make them? Why insist on requiring promises that will not be kept?

In a *Psychology Today* article entitled, Why Keeping Your Promise is Good for YOU, Michelle Gielan writes, "When we don't keep a promise to someone, it communicates to that person that we don't value him or her. We have chosen to put something else ahead of our commitment. Even when we break small promises, others learn that they cannot count on us. Tiny fissures develop in our relationships marked by broken promises." Based on her assessment, it would seem, we break our Confirmation promises because we break the 1st Commandment—we do not "fear, love, and trust in God above all things." We put other things, including ourselves, ahead of God. We value our leisure, recreation, sleep, work, friends, family, etc. more than we value God. The sinful nature is a selfish thing.

I am sure that most of us do not intend to break our promises to God. Surely, our Confirmands this year fully intend to remain faithful and true. But life happens and the old man insists on getting between us and our relationship with God. Thankfully, by the grace of God, we are forgiven. He remains faithful and keeps our place in the kingdom, even when we wander away. Pray God's grace for our Confirmands and for us all!