

May 3, 2015
Something different

In a couple of weeks we will confirm two students here at *Tree of Life*. Here is one of their final assignments. I challenge all of you to fill out the questions I ask them to answer.

1. **Confirmation Verse:**

On this one you can use your old confirmation verse, but I encourage you to pick another one as well. Perhaps one that you have been reading a lot lately.

2. **Why did you choose that verse?**

I think you can figure out what to do for this one.

3. **Who is God?**

4. **How will I respond to the love of God?**

Take a few minutes, at the very least to think about these questions, but I hope that a few of the braver souls out there in my congregation take the time to answer these questions on paper or computer and share them with me. Seriously, please do that. The answers don't have to be long. They will not be sent to the doctrinal review board. They might be shared with the congregation anonymously. But, I really hope that at least a few of you do this.

Why do I want you to do this? Because, confirmation is not a graduation. It is the process by which we welcome former children of faith into adulthood of faith. That isn't an answer to the question at hand, but it sets my answer up. Because, it is a step toward a mature faith, I want you to see how your faith has matured since the times of your own confirmations. I think that the



way you respond to these questions might amaze you.

Now, I know that this is a little different than the questions you were asked at your confirmation, but these questions sum up everything that you answered by memory when you were examined. I think that you might find the answers to these simplified questions come a little easier, and with less sweat on your palms than the answers at your examination did. So, respond to these questions, if not for me for yourself to show you how far you've matured. Or, perhaps it might show you that faith isn't the tangled web of "dos" and "do nots" that it can seem at times.

Remember, your answers don't need to be long, just a sentence or two perhaps, they only need to be from your heart born from the faith that resides there. To give you a little confidence (and an example), let me give you my answers:

Confirmation Verse: Hebrews 4: 12

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Why did I choose this verse? I chose this verse to remind me exactly what it is that I am wielding on Sundays and in my ministry, so that I don't misuse Jesus and to remind me that the same living Word, watches over me as well. And, I like swords.

Who is God? God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the creator, redeemer and sustainer of everything including little old me. He is that great, but he is also mine as he carefully remembers, loves and tends to me with what Jesus did for me.

How will I respond to the love of God? I will trust his promises to me, and tell everyone I can about Jesus.

Pastor C. J. H.

