• If Jesus really died for the sins of the world once and for all, then why do we need confession? Doesn't confession take away from Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross?

As Christ began his ministry, he proclaimed, “Reform your lives, the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Mt. 4:17) This call for reformation by the people was not new. The prophets had continually called the people to reform their lives and return to living out the covenant. John the Baptist, preparing for the coming of Christ, reinforced the need for reformation in his baptism of repentance. What was different for Christ was his claim to personally forgive sins. It is in Christ, and in Christ alone, then that we find the power to heal the wounds inflicted by sin. It is through Christ and his ministry that the answer is to be found for how Christians would be reconciled after baptism. If reconciling sinners is to be considered such an important part of Christ's mission, it would not have ended as he ascended into heaven; rather, he continued that work through his Church. This ministry of reconciliation in which the Church is united with Christ is intended to reconcile all people with God, with themselves, with each other, and with the whole of creation. The very action of the Church is to actually connect each sinner with the cross and its powerful effects in our lives.