

## Questions for the confession of high spiritual persons

### Exhortation

I, a sinful pastor, not a judge in order to judge you, but selected by you as a witness before God. Our Judge is the Lord Jesus Christ, before Him reveal the secrets of your heart, repent.

### Questions

During the holy days of fasting and prayer to God, has He bestowed to you to behold your transgressions?

Do you believe in the Triune God as taught by the Prophets, Apostles and saints of our Church?

Do you walk in the presence of God, like David, always beholding the Lord, and like the Apostles, feeling Christ living in their hearts?

Do you live according to the sacred will of Christ and by the example of His sacred life, as what kind of conscience do you have before God, are your mind and will, thoughts and desires pure, are your memory and imagination pure; have you sinned by your senses: sight, taste, touch; hearing, smell or by means of your tongue, or hands, or however differently?

Have you diligently practiced in the reading of Holy Scriptures, what subjects occupy your mind more, heavenly or earthly, and do you love the worldly more than their Creator?

Have you noticed idols in your soul: self-love, pride, vanity, covetousness, lechery or whimsicality, have you tried to conquer these enemies, have you sincerely prayed to the Heavenly King for cleansing of your defilement?

Have you said the Holy Name of God in vain, have you faithfully and by conscience fulfilled the oath given before God, the tsar and country?

Have you in the field of service of the Church and country always acted for the glory of God and the benefit of your neighbor?

In the exact discharge of duties were you disturbed by your will, your glory, your benefit or self love, or anger, or laziness or envy?

Have you happened to break the truth, or to change the truth out of fear of men, out of fear for tsars and masters?

Have you happened out of pleasing man or from whatever promptings, to act contrary to the laws of God and a clear conscience, or have you happened to be silent, when these are broken by other subordinates to you and when duty demanded to you to speak?

Have you always had father like care for your subordinates, have you cared for them as your children and protected them from trouble, have you condescended to their weaknesses and disadvantages, have you tried to learn their needs and to facilitate the guilty and the weak, were you quick to anger and slow to mercy, and have you tried to correct more rather than to punish?

Have you always observed the truth at the election to the degree of service and at the awards for merits and for the intercession for subordinates and have you humiliated the best of them before the worst?

Have you always with strict discernment made recalls or denunciations to subordinates received by you, have you happened to betray the weak into the arms of the powerful?

Do you still have some special sins opposed to love for God, neighbor and yourself? (Napominanie sviashch. [A Reminder to Priests], part 1, pp. 269-271).

*S. V. Bulgakov < Handbook for Church Servers, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) p.1012a.*

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