

**Predigt zum 25.03.2012, Sunday Judika, El Angel, Marbella**

**Costa del Sol, Reverent Friedhelm Peters, Confirmation: attachment to the cross of Jesus**  
[gemeinde@evpfa-costadelsol.de](http://gemeinde@evpfa-costadelsol.de) / [www.evpfa-costadelsol.de](http://www.evpfa-costadelsol.de)

*Psalm 23, 3 : He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

Dear Confirmation Candidates, dear Congregation!

1.1 Confirmation --- What is it?

It is like a huge clothes peg. Oh...some will think now. Fortunately our kids are wearing their shirts and trousers. They aren't hanging on the washing line any longer. So why clothes peg?

Of course it is not about clothes pegs for trousers.

1.2 Confirmation is like a peg for the heart. But to which line do I attach my heart? With what shall I fill my inner self? What do I rely on, so that I am not lost? These are the 'peg' questions. Confirmation gives an answer to these questions and says: YOU. It is you, God. I attach my life to you. I follow you. You shall hold me. I say 'yes' to you, God. I have learnt that you also say 'yes' to me. The confirmation promise is a vow of holding on to God.

2.1 Make firm: confirmare.

There are so many pegs that grip us in our lives. Some we choose deliberately. But many things hold us in their claws against our will. We hang on so many lines! Some are very unpleasant. They take away all room to move. They take over heart and mind. Young people sense this, but grown ups know it.

2.2. In our confirmation class we practised attaching ourselves to God. To attach ourselves to the invisible world is always a voluntary act and something beautiful. And it's an achievement. It doesn't happen by itself. That's why we practise our faith.

3.1. Anyone who knows his 'room of silence' and is able to spend time in it will get to know his inner heart. There I can meet God. Our 'light exercise' and our 'shepherd exercise' were leading us to HIM. How can I hold on to God, if I don't know him personally? Each of us can find God's presence in themselves. HE is there, HIS spirit in mine. The spiritual diary can be like a divine facebook, where I record everything HE says to me. **Attachment in the heart.** Do I anchor my life in my room of silence to him? You, my shepherd. I trust in your guidance.

3.2. If you read your bible with an open heart, you will find the pin code, the Lord's word for you. 'Lord, this is what you are pointing out to me today. Thank you.' And this is how I get attached – to HIS word. And thousands of Christians are doing the same with me, every day. To help you you were given the 'Moravian Daily Texts' for this year. Don't forget to buy them next year.

And that's also what your confirmation verse is for. It stays with you all your life and tells you time after time afresh what plans God has for you. **Attachment** of a second kind: **to the Word of God.**

3.3 We also practised understanding the secrets of faith, the sacraments. In the invisible world the baptismal water becomes the water of life. The bread and wine on the altar become spiritual food. If I am baptised then God said 'yes' to me. The invisible world sees my white garment, which I was given as protection against all evil. I am God's child.

Do I accept this? Do I attach myself to this? The confirmation says 'yes'. I attach myself to God's 'yes' in baptism. I receive the bread of heaven in the Lord's Supper as nourishment for my faith. As often as possible. This shall strengthen me and **attach me to HIS Nourishment.** How this happens is known to God. I am still learning.

3.4. What is left now is the cross of Jesus which we see here. Why he had to die on it? Somebody had to pay the price for all the good. The kingdom of God in Jesus came with miracles and healing, with freedom and God's renewed love. Jesus did not only give all us all this. He also cleared away everything that still separates us from God, that ties us to the dark, alienation from God, sin. 'Give all this to me' he said. I am dying for it. Jesus becoming a sinner for me, and I a child of God in his place - this is the key to the cross. HE for me. Whoever calls upon his cross knows what salvation is. Attach myself to his cross? If I do this I have forgiveness and will be saved.

4.1. This is what the cross stands for, with all its lines. Confirmation is 'attaching'. Attaching through our inner room of silence, through HIS word, through HIS 'yes' in baptism. through the strength he gives in Communion, attachment to HIS salvation – to HIM.

4.2. Everybody chooses freely, decides for themselves. What counts is that it is a free decision. At any time I can start afresh. Confirmation is not tied to a specific age, but to the heart.

We discussed in our group, that everybody determines the extent of their trust in God for themselves. This is expressed when we say 'yes' together in our confirmation promise.

4.3. And you, dear congregation. You are invited to join in in our 'yes' if you want to renew your promise to God.

4.4. We trust that our journey of faith will be a good journey. The bible verse confirms this: *He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.* For this journey each of you will shortly receive the blessing.

Amen.