

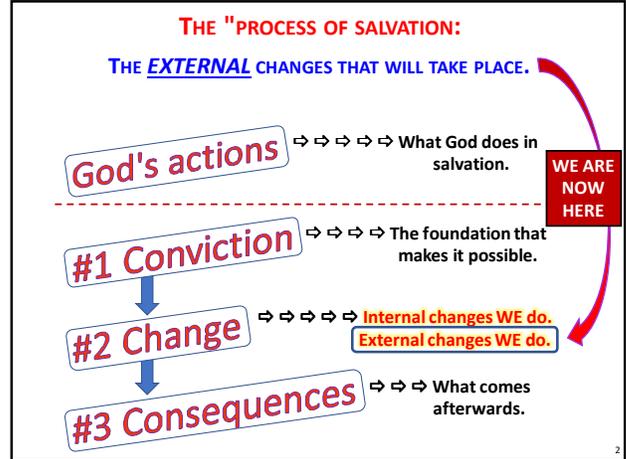


GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

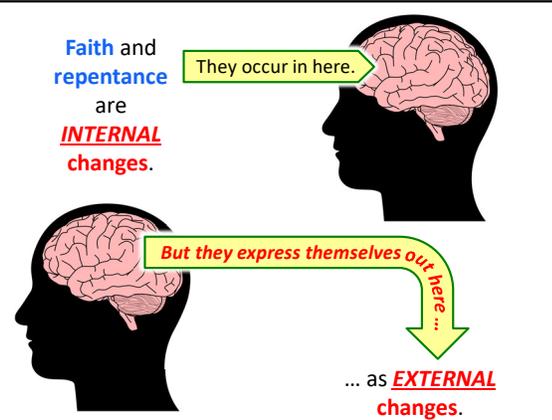
(#118)
Confession (2) – It's about Jesus!

1



Faith and repentance are **INTERNAL** changes.

They occur in here.



But they express themselves out here ...

... as **EXTERNAL** changes.

3

THE EXTERNAL CHANGE WE ARE LOOKING AT: "CONFESSION"

- **Last time** – Defining what "confession" is; encouraging us to pursue a "good confession."
- **Today** – Jesus Christ, the main focus of "confession."
- **Next time** – Other things that are a part of "confession."

TODAY:
THE #1 FOCUS OF CONFESSION IS JESUS!

4

WE CONFESS JESUS!

HOW?

It's not a silent, "private" activity! This action is accomplished by using body parts that are associated with speaking!

... every tongue will **confess** that Jesus Christ is Lord, ...
Philippians 2:11a (CSB)

If you **confess** with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," ...
... and one **confesses** with the mouth. ...
Romans 10:9a, 10b (CSB)

HE USED VOCAL CORDS! → ... Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good **confession**, ...
1 Timothy 6:13b (NIV)

! This is so obvious! Yet there are many people who act as though "silence" is what God wants! !

5

WHERE?

It's in the presence of people! It's a public expression, not limited to the hearing of saved people.

"Everyone who **acknowledges** me [Jesus] publicly here on earth, ..."
Matthew 10:32a (NLT); see also Luke 12:8.

... Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good **confession**, ...
1 Timothy 6:13b (NIV)

... you made your good **confession in the presence of many witnesses**.
1 Timothy 6:12b (NIV)

! Some people seem to think that "public" means something that is done behind the closed doors of a church-building. (Jesus and the apostles never thought that way.) !

6

WHEN?

Whenever the opportunity is present. The verb for "confess" is usually present-tense – which refers to an ongoing action.

- A few passages point to a specific event in the past.
 ... you made your good confession...
 1 Timothy 6:12b (NIV)
- A few passages point to a future event.
 ... every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, ...
 Philippians 2:11a (CSB)
- Most passages describe an ongoing present activity.
 "Everyone who acknowledges me [Jesus] ..."
 Matthew 10:32a (NLT); see also Luke 12:8.

Some people treat it like an activity that is done "sometime in the past," and then not repeated. (The Bible doesn't view it this way.)

7

WHAT?

We should be willing to admit everything the Bible says about Jesus!
 Here are some specific examples:

1. The fact that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah).

THE CHOSEN ONE!

- The one chosen by God to redeem a people for God, in accordance with his promises, given in the Law and the prophets.

[People] who confessed Jesus to be the Christ ...
 John 9:22b (NET)

Every spirit that confesses Jesus as the Christ who has come in the flesh is from God, ...
 1 John 4:2b (NET)

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2. The fact that Jesus (the Christ) has come in the flesh.

This refers to Jesus' human body – not the impulses of the "flesh" that we sometimes call the "sinful nature."

HUMAN!

- Those who confess this fact are from God; those who don't confess this fact are controlled by the spirit of the "antichrist."
 Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, ...
 1 John 4:2b-3a (CSB)
- Those who don't confess this fact are deceivers and "antichrists."
 Many deceivers have gone out into the world; they do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.
 2 John 1:7 (CSB)

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3. The fact that Jesus is the Son of God – indicating the relationship that exists between Father and Son.

Jesus is "son" by nature (Philippians 2:6; Hebrews 1:3). In contrast, we become "sons" by adoption (Ephesians 1:5).

GOD!

- Those who confess this fact are "in God" and God is "in them."
 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God—God remains in him and he in God.
 1 John 4:15 (CSB)
- Our willingness to confess this fact, or not confess it, determines whether or not we have the Father.
 No one who denies the Son has the Father; he who confesses the Son has the Father as well.
 1 John 2:23 (CSB)

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4. The fact that Jesus is Lord – the Master and Owner of all.

RULER OVER ALL!

- Confessing this is a prerequisite for salvation.
 If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," ... and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation.
 Romans 10:9a, 10b (CSB)
- In the future, even those who are presently unwilling to admit who Jesus is... they will do so – but it will be too late to be saved.
 ... every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, ...
 Philippians 2:11a (CSB)

We live in a day in which some people claim you can "accept Jesus as your Savior" and be saved... WITHOUT "accepting him as your Lord." That's not what Scripture says!

11

THE CONSEQUENCES OF CONFESSING JESUS!

✓ The effects on our eternal destiny.

- Salvation. (The internal act of "believing" also occurs; but it is inseparable from the external act of "confessing.")
 If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," ... and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation.
 Romans 10:9a, 10b (CSB)
- Eternal life.
 ... the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession ...
 1 Timothy 6:12b (NIV)

> These two passages link confession to our eternal destiny. <

Other passages connect other concepts – such as believing or repenting – to our eternal destiny. Since these are all linked together in salvation, all will occur.

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✓ **The effects on our relationship to God ...**

- We are in God and God is in us; we have the Father.

Whoever **confesses** that Jesus is the Son of God—God remains in him and he in God.

1 John 4:15 (CSB)

... he who **confesses** the Son has the Father as well.

1 John 2:23b (CSB)

- Jesus will acknowledge us before the Father.

"Everyone who **acknowledges** me publicly here on earth, I will also **acknowledge** before my Father in heaven."

Matthew 10:32 (NLT); see also Luke 12:8.

- Our spirit is shown to be from God. (It's actions prove that it is controlled by the Holy Spirit.)

By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that **confesses** Jesus as the Christ who has come in the flesh is from God, ...

1 John 4:2 (NET)

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ABOUT THOSE WHO DO NOT CONFESS JESUS:

- ✓ When people are unwilling to **acknowledge** Jesus, Scripture describes it as **denying** (or disowning) him.

- In the end, such people will be denied by Jesus.

"Everyone who **acknowledges** me publicly here on earth, I will also **acknowledge** before my Father in heaven.

But everyone who **denies** me here on earth, I will also **deny** before my Father in heaven."

Matthew 10:32-33 (NLT); see also Luke 12:8.

- Denying can also be **non-verbal** – done by one's **actions**.

They **claim** [= acknowledge] to know God, but by their actions they **deny** him.

Titus 1:16a (NIV)

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✓ **John describes such people as being against ("anti") Christ.**

- Such people don't have the Father or the Son. Instead, they are liars and antichrists (= "against Christ").

Who is the **liar**, if not the one who **denies** that Jesus is the Christ? This one is the **antichrist**: the one who **denies** the Father and the Son.

No one who **denies** the Son has the Father; ...

1 John 2:22-23a (CSB)

- Such people are deceivers and antichrists (= "against Christ").

For many **deceivers** have gone out into the world, people who do not **confess** Jesus as Christ coming in the flesh. This person is the **deceiver** and the **antichrist**!

2 John 1:7 (NET)

15

- They are not from God, but are empowered by the spirit of the antichrist.

Every spirit that **confesses** that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not **confess** Jesus is not from God. This is the **spirit of the antichrist**, ...

1 John 4:2b-3a (CSB)

NOTE: Even though Peter denied Christ three times in one evening (Luke 22:54-62), *it was not his way of life*. He repented, and **confessed** Christ for the rest of his life. (He did not treat **denial** as an option to be chosen, whenever it was convenient.)

Different ways to "deny" Christ...

- By our **WORDS** (active denial).
 - By our **ACTIONS** (contradicting what we **claim**).
 - By our **SILENCE** (passive denial).
- (THIS "SILENCE" ISSUE IS NEXT.)

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"Silent believers" – This can be a **passive** denial of Christ.

✓ "Believing" and "being saved" are NOT the same thing!

- A "faith" that has no expression in life is **dead**. It is NOT the living, fact-based faith that results in salvation.

For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also **faith** without works is dead.

James 2:26 (NET)

- Scripture tells us that confession is part of what a person does to become "saved." *Pay close attention to what Paul says!*

If you **confess** with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

One **believes** with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one **confesses** with the mouth, **resulting in salvation**.

Romans 10:9-10 (CSB)

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✓ **Two Scripture passages mention "believing" without "confessing."**

- IN THE BOOK OF JOHN**, **before** Jesus' death and resurrection, some people did "believe," but didn't admit it. (They feared the persecution they would receive. And they loved the praise of people.)

For the Jewish leaders had already agreed that anyone who **confessed** Jesus to be the Christ would be put out of the synagogue.

John 9:22b (NET)

Many people did **believe** in him, however, including some of the Jewish leaders. But they wouldn't **admit** it for **fear** that the Pharisees would expel them from the synagogue. For they **loved human praise** more than the praise of God.

John 12:42-43 (NLT)

- We need to realize this:** *This silence could not have lasted forever. John would have never known about these people, if they had **remained** permanently silent!*

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- **IN THE BOOK OF ACTS**, we read about some people who "believed," who apparently later "confessed" their sin. We know very little about these people, or the type of "faith" they had. Apparently, (1) it wasn't "temporary" faith, and (2) it was growing. It could have been:
 - ✓ "Newborn" faith – Christians who were still learning the basics of what it means to "follow Jesus."
 - ✓ "Incomplete" faith – People who had begun to "believe," but hadn't yet made the break with their sinful past.

Many of those who **believed** now came and openly **confessed** what they had done [= their sins].
Acts 19:18 (NIV)

- **We need to realize this:** *Even if there was a time gap between "believing" and "confessing," the confessing did eventually come.* What Paul said in Romans 10:9-10 (believe *and* confess) did occur... even if it took some time to do so.

✓ **Can a person who doesn't confess Jesus be saved?**

- Some people will look for anything that appears to be an "exception" to God's clear commands – in an attempt to justify the things they want to do.
- They would rather rely on speculation, than on God's clear commands. *This is the wrong attitude! Don't look for excuses!*

WHY would a person **NOT** want to confess Jesus?
[Your reason reveals a lot about you.]

- In countries where people are killed for confessing Jesus... Christians want to confess him, but have to wait for the right opportunity. (And even then, there is risk of death.)
- In our country, where persecution is minimal... Many people don't want to confess Jesus... but still want to claim they're saved!

✓ **Do you really want to take a chance, and hope that you can be saved without confessing Jesus?**

DON'T GAMBLE YOUR ETERNAL DESTINY ON SPECULATION!

- We should base our lives on the commands of God, not on the actions or excuses of sinners!
- Never is "believing" with an unwillingness to "confess" called a legitimate option... and never is the word "saved" associated with such an unwillingness!
- Scripture gives us too many warnings about "believers" who are actually unsaved "fakes," to take this matter lightly.



YOUR MISSION: Remember the end result, and respond appropriately!

✓ **Our willingness or unwillingness to "confess" Jesus NOW will matter at the day of judgment!**

THOSE WHO CONFESS.	}	I will never erase their names from the Book of Life. I will acknowledge them in the presence of my Father and his angels. Revelation 3:5b (GW)
THOSE WHO DON'T.	}	"Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven." But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven." Matthew 10:32-33 (NLT); see also Luke 12:8.

IF WE DO "CONFESS" HIM ...

✓ **We need to make sure our actions agree with our words. Or someday our actions will testify against us.**

DON'T LET THIS BE TRUE OF YOU!

They **claim** [= acknowledge] to know God, but by their actions they **deny** him.
Titus 1:16a (NIV)

BUT JESUS, I DID LOTS OF RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES!

Then I will **tell them** plainly,
I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!
Matthew 7:23 (NIV)

Credits

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