



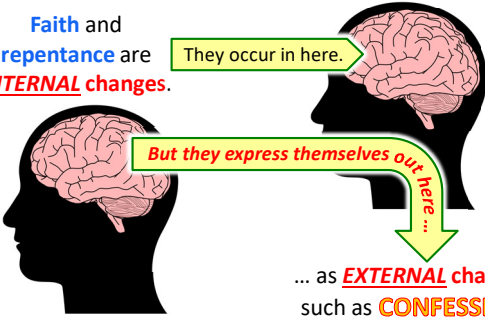
GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#119)
Confession (3) – Other things to confess.

1

Faith and repentance are **INTERNAL** changes. They occur in here.



But they express themselves out here ...

... as **EXTERNAL** changes, such as **CONFESSION**.

TODAY = PART 3 (THE LAST PART):
"OTHER THINGS TO CONFESS."

2

EVEN THOUGH:
THE #1 FOCUS OF CONFESSION IS JESUS...

→ **IT'S NOT THE ONLY FOCUS.**

- When Jesus is our #1 focus, it will influence the types of things we confess.
- On the following pages are examples of things we might confess. Our list will include things pertaining to:
 - ✓ Sin
 - ✓ God
 - ✓ Good News
 - ✓ Difficult times
 - ✓ Future events
- ❖ But we could include anything else that is consistent with the message of Scripture!

3

WITH JESUS AS OUR #1 FOCUS...

→ **WE DEFINITELY WON'T "CONFESS" THINGS LIKE THIS!**

I CONFESS I'M BETTER THAN YOU!

"The Pharisee stood up and prayed, 'God, I thank you that I'm not like other people! I'm not a robber or a dishonest person. I haven't committed adultery. I'm not even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my entire income.' "

Luke 18:11-12 (GW)

OR ANYTHING ELSE THAT ISN'T:

- ✓ An expression of love for God and neighbor.
- ✓ Compatible with God's moral law (which God embeds in the hearts of those who love him).

4

(We begin with this topic, because it is the second-most common focus of confession – after #1, confessing Jesus.)

1. CONFESSION AND SIN.

- Confession of sin is an external act associated with the internal act of repentance.
- Repentance is a necessary part of becoming saved, and it influences the ongoing attitude of a saved person. Confession of sin will be an expression of this internal heart-change.

⇒ **Confession at the time of salvation.**

It was a "baptism of repentance" (Acts 19:4). See also Acts 2:38.

And when they **confessed** their sins, [John] baptized them in the Jordan River.
Matthew 3:6 (NLT); see also Mark 1:5.

5

Any time we discover sin in our lives, it is time to repent and confess. God promises forgiveness for those who do.

⇒ **A promise about our confession of sin and God's forgiveness.**

If we **confess** our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
1 John 1:9 (CSB)

- Since this confession is an expression of repentance, it will be our desire to be made clean, and to not stay in sin.

Some people act as though this verse is a magic "eraser" that permits them to choose to live lives of sin, as long as they periodically "confess" it. People with this attitude have missed the whole point of the book of 1 John, which tells us that we cannot choose to live in sin (1 John 3:9)!

6

⇒ Two situations that don't always apply to us.

(1) Dealing with sickness that is caused by sin.

Sickness may sometimes be due to sin in our lives. It may be the result of God disciplining us – Hebrews 12:5b-11. In such a situation, confession of our sin, being the external expression of repentance, will result in God healing us.

Sickness is *not always* a sin issue (example: John 9:2-3); but when it is, this verse may apply:

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

James 5:16a (NLT)

There are many possible reasons for sickness; and there are many different ways that God can accomplish good through it. We should make it our goal to honor God, regardless of the outcome!

7

(2) A time gap between "believing" and "confessing."

Ephesus was a city steeped in idolatry. Many of the early Christians began with very little understanding of what it meant to "follow Jesus" – though they were willing to learn.

We do not know whether this specific situation involved "incomplete faith" (still in the process of forming), or "newborn faith" (still growing in an awareness of what sin was); but either way, the "confessing" *did* eventually come:

Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done [= their sins].

Acts 19:18 (NIV)

This type of situation should NOT characterize our lives! (It *won't* be a willful act, if we are following Jesus.)

If for some reason you discover yourself to be in this type of situation, confess your sin (repent) and follow Jesus! This is more important than worrying about which type of faith you might have!

8

2. CONFESSION AND GOD.

This can refer to acknowledging God in the presence of other people; but it can also be an expression of praise to God.

⇒ Confessing God in the presence of others.

However, I admit that I worship the God of our ancestors as a follower of the Way [of Christ] ...

Acts 24:14a (NIV)

⇒ Confession expressed as praise to God.

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that **openly profess** his name.

Hebrews 13:15 (NIV)

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name."

Romans 15:9b (NIV); from Psalm 18:49 and 2 Samuel 22:50.

9

3. CONFESSION AND THE GOOD NEWS.

By nature, the Good News is something to be confessed (acknowledged) before others. But it needs confessed not only in words, but also in action. Both are necessary.

⇒ We should not only confess the Good News, but we should live in obedience to its message.

In this specific situation, obedience to the Good News message meant helping other Christians who were in need.

... they will glorify God because of your obedience to your **confession** in the gospel of Christ and the generosity of your sharing with them and with everyone.

2 Corinthians 9:13b (NET)

10

4. CONFESSION IN DIFFICULT TIMES.

When we experience persecution and hard times, it is easy to focus on the problems at hand. The book of Hebrews gives us a better focus.

Some of these passages may have a special relevance to difficult times. At the same time, they are a good focus to have in all situations.

⇒ A "Jesus focus" – looking to the one we confess.

... fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we **acknowledge** as our apostle and high priest.

Hebrews 3:1a (NIV)

The word "apostle" means "one who is sent (by another)." In this verse, Jesus is called an "apostle," because he was sent by the Father to accomplish our salvation.

11

⇒ A "fact focus" – holding firmly to the truth we confess.

Therefore since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast to our **confession**.

Hebrews 4:14 (NET)

This refers to the facts – the foundation – for our faith.

The primary focus would be on Jesus, what he has accomplished, and its significance for us who trust him.

⇒ A "hope focus" – admitting that God will keep his promises.

And let us hold unwaveringly to the hope that we **confess**, for the one who made the promise is trustworthy.

Hebrews 10:23 (NET)

God's promises cannot be broken. Unlike the world, we have a confident hope that is eternally guaranteed and cannot fail!

12

⇒ A "future focus" – admitting that this world is not our home.

The "people of faith," mentioned in Hebrews 11, did not settle for what this world offers. They looked for a future home, where God's promises will be completely fulfilled.

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, **admitting** that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.

Hebrews 11:13 (NIV)

⇒ A "God focus" – which results in a confession of praise.

Considering all that God has done for us through Jesus, he is worthy of this confession of praise!

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that **openly profess** his name.

Hebrews 13:15 (NIV)

13

5. CONFESSION IN THE FUTURE.

⇒ We will all give account to God for what we have done in this life.

In Romans 2-3, Paul shows us that all people will be judged. But in Romans 14, Paul applies this truth to Christians.

Sometimes the "rightness or wrongness" of a matter is not based on a direct command from God, but is determined by the context of our own lives. When we stand before God, we will admit whether or not these things were an expression of love for God and neighbor.

For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written:

" 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will **acknowledge** God.' "

So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

Romans 14:10b-12 (NIV); based on Isaiah 45:23.

14

⇒ We will all confess that Jesus Christ is Lord – the Ruler and Master over all.

In the future, all will see that our willingness to confess Jesus now was well worth it.

At that time, all people will confess the truth about Jesus. But only those willing to confess it now will be saved.

.....

All people will admit what God has accomplished through Jesus ...

... so that at the name of Jesus everyone in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will kneel and **confess** that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:10-11 (GW)

✨ Are you ready? ✨

15

YOUR MISSION:
consider this: → **Are you ready?**

In the future, we will ALL confess Jesus as Lord and Master. But only those who confess him now will be saved.

"Confessing" Jesus as Lord cannot be separated from "believing" the facts about him.

It's one of the ways we apply the truth we believe to life!

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)

16

Credits

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17