

WHAT IS IT TO "CONFESS" JESUS?

Matthew 10:32-33

Introduction: Criminals are told by police to "confess" their crimes, their wrong doings. Teachers tell their students to "confess," who was throwing paper wads, who was talking, etc. The Bible speaks of "confessing" Jesus. What exactly does "confess" mean? "Confess" is to say plainly, to acknowledge a fact, to admit to something, to declare publicly and to live accordingly.

I. WE ARE TO CONFESS JESUS CHRIST

1. God asks that we confess Christ! But not to:
 - a denomination
 - in some sort of "creed"
 - not to a ritual
 - but to confess Jesus, to admit that we know Him, to declare it openly and then to live our life in such a way that shows that we know Him.
2. Who, exactly, is to confess Christ?
 - Everyone who is a believer in Him, who is a Christian.
 - His Children, His people.
 - His Ministers.
 - Everyone who truly loves Him.

II. IF WE ARE TO CONFESS CHRIST, TO WHOM DO WE CONFESS HIM TO?

1. The Bible tells that believers are to confess Christ to all people.
 - Not only to friends.
 - To the good and the bad, alike.
 - To the poor and the rich.
 - To the ignorant and the learned.
 - To all colors of people.
2. No one is privileged to keep back the story of Jesus Christ.
 - Believers are to confess Christ to their families.
 - Believers are to confess Christ to other Christians.

III. HOW ARE WE TO CONFESS CHRIST, BY WHAT MEANS?

1. Believers are to confess Christ with their lips.
 - We are not to be ashamed of the Gospel nor be ashamed that we are Christians.
 - We are to admit that ONLY Jesus Christ can save.
 - We are to confess that we trust and believe Christ.
 - We must confess that we love Him and all of this must be done with our lips.

2. We are then to confess Jesus Christ with our lives.
 - Our actions must speak louder than our words.
 - We must live a life that shows that we believe and trust in Jesus Christ.
 - We must live a life that shows Jesus Christ in our homes.
 - We must live the life of a Christian in our business lives.
 - We must live the life that reflects Christ in our religious lives.
3. We are to confess Jesus Christ in all situations.
 - When we are poor, we are to confess Jesus Christ.
 - When we are rich, we are to confess Jesus Christ.
 - When we are sick or our loved ones are sick, we are to confess Jesus Christ.
 - When we lose a loved one, we are to still to confess Jesus Christ.
 - One other way of confessing Jesus Christ is by NOT DOING things that are not Christ-like.

IV. OFTEN WE FAIL TO CONFESS JESUS CHRIST, WHY?

1. Sometimes we fail to confess Jesus Christ out of fear.
 - Fear of being made fun of.
 - Fear of being disliked.
 - Fear of being thought of as "odd."
 - Fear of even being persecuted or of perhaps losing one's job.
 - Fear of ourselves for being ashamed and not knowing how to witness and confess Christ.

V. WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF CONFESSING JESUS CHRIST?

1. Our conscience will be at ease.
 - We know that we are doing the right thing.
 - We will have peace of mind.
 - We will be assured and comforted and strengthened by the Holy Spirit.
2. We will be blessed by God.
 - Our sins will be forgiven.
 - God will even deliver us from certain situations and help us in our daily lives.
3. Most important of all, perhaps, if we confess Jesus Christ here, on earth, to all we meet, Jesus said that He will confess us before God in Heaven when we stand before Him.

VI. WHAT HAPPENS IF WE DON'T CONFESS CHRIST?

1. We will have a guilty conscience.
2. We will have a useless, fruitless life.
3. There will be a loss of blessings here and a loss of reward in heaven

4. Most important, if we refuse to confess Jesus Christ here, He will deny us before God and He will not stand up for us when we stand before God.

CONCLUSION:

1. Christians, we must live a life that shows that we know Jesus Christ.
2. We must speak the language that shows that we know Jesus Christ.
3. Christians, we must never be ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ and be ready at any moment to confess Him before all people.
4. Who does God have in this world to tell of Jesus if not US?