

Confess

The Fourth Step In God's Plan Of
Salvation

1Tim. 6:12-13

- “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate”

Confession

- Confession comes from (HOMOLOGEO) -- Literally, to speak the same thing (homos -- same; lego -- to speak), to assent, accord, agree with, denotes, either (a) To confess, declare, admit or (b) to confess by way of admitting oneself guilty of what one is accused of, the result of inward conviction or (c) to declare openly by way of speaking out freely, such confession being the effect of deep conviction of facts. (Vine's Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words, p. 224)

What It Is...

- A specific profession; "THE" not "a"
- Jesus is THE Christ
 - Matt. 16:13-16 – “When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am? 14 So they said, Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets. 15 He said to them, But who do you say that I am? 16 Simon Peter answered and said, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
- An inspired declaration
 - Matt. 16:17 – “Jesus answered and said to him, Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”

...Is Foundational To Faith

- Matt. 16:18 – “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”
- Isa. 28:16 – “Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily.”
- 1Peter 2:5-6 – “you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.”
- 1Cor. 3:11 – “For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

...Is Foundational To Faith

- Witnessed by Christ
 - 1Tim. 6:13 – “I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate”
 - John 18:36-37 – “Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here. 37 Pilate therefore said to Him, Are You a king then? Jesus answered, You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

...Is Foundational To Faith

- That He is a witness of the truth
 - John 17:17 – “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”
- For all who will to hear
 - John 7:17 – “If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.”

...Is Foundational To Faith

- Confirmed by God
 - Matt. 17:5 – “While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”
- By the resurrection
 - Rom. 1:4 – “and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”

...Is Foundational To Faith

- Serves as God's final spokesman
 - Heb. 1:1-2 – “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds”
- Therefore, give heed
 - Heb. 2:1 – “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.”

...Is Conditional To Salvation

- Rom. 10:9-10 – “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
- Acts 8:37 – “Then Philip said, If you believe with all your heart, you may. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

...Is Conditional To Salvation

- Matt. 10:32-33 – “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.”
- Matt. 26:63-64 – “But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God! 64 Jesus said to him, It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

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- ...Is Foundational To Faith
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And Is The Basis Of Soundness And Spiritual Unity

- 1Cor. 1:10 – “Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”
- 1John 4:1-3 – “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.”

The Old Law Required Confession

- Prov. 28:13 – “He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”
- Psalm 32:1-5 – “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. 5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, I will confess my transgressions to the LORD, And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.”

The Old Law Required Confession

- Lev. 5:5-7 – “And it shall be, when he is guilty in any of these matters, that he shall confess that he has sinned in that thing; 6 'and he shall bring his trespass offering to the LORD for his sin which he has committed, a female from the flock, a lamb or a kid of the goats as a sin offering. So the priest shall make atonement for him concerning his sin. 7 'If he is not able to bring a lamb, then he shall bring to the LORD, for his trespass which he has committed, two turtledoves or two young pigeons: one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering.”

The Old Law Required Confession

- Nehemiah admitted his own sins and the sins of his people
 - Neh. 1:6 – “please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father's house and I have sinned.”

The Old Law Required Confession

- Nehemiah had the people confess their sins before God
 - Neh. 9:1-2 – “Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dust on their heads. 2 Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners; and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.”
- After confessing their sins, they would read the law of God
 - Neh. 9:3 “And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for one-fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God.”

New Testament Requires Confession Before Salvation

- Matt. 10:32-33
- Rom. 10:9-10
- Acts 8:36-38 – “Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized? 37 Then Philip said, If you believe with all your heart, you may. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.”

The Price Of Confession Of Faith In Jesus Is Often High

- John 9:22 – “His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.”
- John 9:11 – “He answered and said, A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight.”
- John 9:21 – “but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself.”
- Acts 5:28-40

At Judgment, All Will Wish They Had Confessed Christ

- Rom. 14:11-12 – “For it is written: As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God. 12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.”

Types Of Confession

- Peter confessed after revelation from God
 - Matt. 16:16-17 – “Simon Peter answered and said, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 Jesus answered and said to him, Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”
- Thomas confessed after seeing the overwhelming evidence
 - John 20:28-27 – “Then He said to Thomas, Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing. 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, My Lord and my God!”

- The O.T. commanded confession of sins.
- The N.T. commands confession of faith in Christ as the Son of God.
- The price of confession is always high.
- The cost of not confessing is even higher.