

Confession

What is confession?

- True Biblical confession is declaring faith in God; bad confession is giving voice to unbelief.
- It is important that you understand this distinction. **True confession is agreeing with God** but bad confession is doubting him (eg: asking him to do what he's already done, begging him to give what he's already given).
- True confession always leaves you Christ-conscious but bad confession leaves you self-conscious.

Six types of confession in the Bible

1. Confession unto salvation

- **Romans 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.
- **Luke 18:13-14** And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."
- Confessing our need for Jesus. Confessing our need for mercy and grace is the difference between life and death.

2. Confession of sonship

- **Romans 8:15** For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."
- Once we are saved – confession unto salvation – this is the next confession to be made. I am a child of God.

- We no longer need to ask for salvation. We no longer ask for that mercy and grace because it has been given. Instead, we now confess that we have it.
- We confess our position before God. Our spirit is already doing it!
- **Galatians 4:6-7** And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" ⁷ Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.
- **With being a co-heir comes confessing all the things you already have – not still asking for them.**

3. Confession of sins

- **Psalm 51:1** Have mercy upon me, O God, according to your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.
- **Q – If Jesus has given us his righteousness, and has already forgiven our sins past, present and future – do sins need to be confessed to be cleansed?**
- **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
 - This verse makes it appear that only if we confess our sins, then Jesus will forgive us – conditional forgiveness.
 - But is that what it is saying? 2 things we must look at. Who is the we John is referring to, and what do all those words mean in context.
 - 1 John is written to groups of people. It is like a stage of Christian life book. There are unbelievers, not given a title, new believers (little children), believers (young men), and mature believers (Fathers).
 - This verse was written to unbelievers.
 - Look at the word confess.
 - Confess - *homologeō (hom-ol-og-eh'-o) – To agree with God's word*
 - If we agree with God that we have sinned and need Him and His righteousness, He is faithful to give us His righteousness. This verse is about our salvation. Coming into agreement with God about our state (see confession unto salvation) and accepting His righteousness.
 - In Context – **1 John 2:1-2** My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the

Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

- **1 John 2:12** I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.
- John continues that we are forgiven and the power to overcome sin is what has already been given to us – Jesus Himself.
- So again, if we are righteous and forgiven, why confess sin? The confession that needs to happen is not “I have sinned, please forgive me” but rather “I sinned, but thank you and praise you for forgiving me, for giving me your righteousness and giving me your life to live from.” This gives us strength to overcome sin, not just repeat the cycle of sin, ask for forgiveness, repeat. There is no power in that.
- There is a big difference between “Look at what I have done” and “Look at what Jesus has done.”

4. Confession in times of suffering

- **Matthew 26:38-39** Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."³⁹ He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."
- I am sorrowful...but your will be done = Honesty + Faith
- We confess what we are going through. What our emotions are. BUT then we confess who God is, our surrender to Him and receive what He has already given us.
- **1 Peter 5:9-11** Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.¹⁰ But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.¹¹ To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- All of us go through stuff. Admitting it and confessing God's provision is how we deal with it. But we must be humble and be honest about it
 - **James 4:6** But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

5. Confession and sickness

- **Matthew 9:27-30** When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" ²⁸ And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." ²⁹ Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." ³⁰ And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it."
- We can speak to sickness and disease
- To paraphrase Bill Johnson, not everyone I pray for gets healed, but more people get healed when I proclaim the name of Jesus than when I stay silent.

6. Confession as a Sacrifice

- **Hebrews 13:15** Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name.
- Giving Thanks = homologeo
- LITV Translation = **Hebrews 13:15** Then through Him let us offer up a sacrifice of praise to God always, that is, the fruit of the lips, confessing to His name.
- Every time we praise God for his goodness and mercy, we are making a good confession.
- Gratitude is the language of faith. Anytime you give thanks to God, you are making a good confession. Want to be a good confessor? Then learn to give thanks in all circumstances
- **1 Thessalonians 5:18** in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

True confession is basically proclaiming "Jesus" over our lives. It is declaring the good news of his kingdom. It is proclaiming the gospel of his grace and saying "Thank you, Jesus!"

Bad confession looks at ourselves and our circumstances alone. Good confession sees Jesus and the power of His life in us. What He has already done and is wrapped in thankfulness.