

THE GOOD CONFESSION

INTRO: 1. Parochial school confessions.^[1]

2. *Con-fess* [“fess up”]: [ἐξ]ὁμολογέω to speak the same thing; agree with; admit.

a. OT: c. 120x; mainly translates (πῆ?)—give thx, glory, confess w. praise (these usu. follow acknowledgement or confession of benefits received (Gesen.).

b. NT: Mt11²⁵ (ἐξομολογέω) say same th. as; agree; admit... praise, give thx.

I. THE CONFESSION OF CHRIST

A. Mt.3:17, Father confesses Son. When we conf. Χρ. we agree w. Father (Mt.16:13-17 – Pt. said same thing as Father).

B. Mt.10:32-33, confession separates men from boys.

1. 16-25, **courage**: persecution. 26-31, fear God, not man.

2. 32-33, **confess**: deny by not conf.

3. 34-35, **count cost**: fam. div. is painful.

a. Jn.1:20, conf. Χρ. takes **humility** (Jn. conf. himself).

b. Jn.9:22-33, conf. Χρ. takes **courage**. Threats scare parents; strengthen son. Silence is not golden.

C. Ro.10:9-10, “*Jesus is Lord...*” LXX: κύριος more than 8000x of JHVH. NT: regularly of Jesus. Ac.10:36, *He is Lord of all...*

1. **Way?** W. mouth. Peter denied Him 3x; he repented (Ac.10:36).

2. **Who?** Lord Jesus. ▪Polycarp. Jesus brooks no rivals (Jn.14:6).

3. **Why?** 10: when belief & conf./heart & mouth match, sal. follows.

D. 1 T.6:12-13, **good** conf. (2x) bec.: ¹exalts Jesus; ²cond. of sal.; ³follows ex. of Jesus before Pilate. Χρ. conf. Himself (Mt.27:11); had He not, we’re doomed forever; at his bap. Tim. conf. same.

II. THE CONFESSION OF CHRISTIANS

A. Jn.12:9-11, very **presence** of Laz. praises Jesus. Appl.– Ro.6:4, our new life (res.) shows what Χρ. did for us; praises Him.

1. Ac.19:18f, burned books / bridges. 20, authenticity extends gospel.

2. Josh.7:19f. δὸς τὴν ἐξομολόγησιν: admission extols God. Adjuration to speak truth. **Ai is not God’s fault**. [Ezr.10] ^[2]

3. Jn.9:24, δὸς δόξαν τῷ θεῷ: **confess** – his ans. exposes guile. Common Jewish oath; called on man to tell truth. They ≠ bel. there was a cure.

4. Tit.1:16, ὁμολογοῦσιν. [He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy – Pr.28:13.] ▪*Confessing your sins is no substitute for forsaking them.* To deny . . .

a. **in word**: to disown, reject (Peter).

b. **in works**: conduct contradicts profess., T.1:16.

B. Ja.5¹⁶ Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

1. NOT Roman Cath. auricular confession.
2. NOT Crossroads ‘prayer-partner.’ [Teamed “mature” & immature Chr.; forced immature to confess everyth., even private sins of distant past.] “*One another*”: a two-way street.
3. NOT limited to assembly, nor to public confession of sins.
4. Principle: make it as right as you made it wrong.
 - a. Lk.17^{3b-4} – confesses to one (victim).
 - b. Peter, Ga.2:11-13, as public as the sin.

C. 1 Jn.1:9, Chr’s.; confess sins to *God*; incl. admitting specific sins; implies rep. (Ac.8:22-23); God forgives. Appl.

CONCL: Ph.2:10-11. •Pagans: *Let that tongue be mute who does not confess Hercules.* At the last, every power will confess Xp. and honor Him. Here & now:

¹Some do not confess Him at all (fear of ridicule, losing job, etc.).

²Some do not confess Him openly (only privately or w. al. Chr’s.).

³Some do not confess Him in life (only in word). BUT THEY WILL.

[¹] Because the younger children at our parochial school often forgot their sins when they entered my confessional, I suggested that teachers have the students make lists. The next week when one child came to confession, I could hear him unfolding paper. The youngster began, “I lied to my parents. I disobeyed my mom. I fought with my brothers and...” There was a long pause. Then a small angry voice said, “Hey, this isn’t my list!” (Douglas Fortner, Reader’s Digest.) Neither was it biblical confession. •**Sinner says same thing c. himself & Jesus that God does.**

[²] Cf. Ezr.10:... 11 [9:8]: καὶ νῦν δότε ὁμολογίαν δόξαν τῷ κυρίῳ θεῷ τῶν πατέρων ἡμῶν, give glory, as a confession, to the Lord . . . Neither here nor Josh.7 implies permission to say, “I’m sorry that some of you think I have sinned...”!