

Confessors Confessed, Deniers Denied

Matthew 10:32-33

Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

Jesus says in a similar account that “whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before *the angels of God*. But he who denies Me before men will be denied before *the angels of God*” (Luke 12:8f).

Jesus’ confession in heaven of those who confessed Him on earth will be public. It will not be to His Father privately. Rather, it will be to God and all His angels. Therefore, whoever confesses Jesus publicly before men on earth will be confessed by Him publicly before all heaven’s occupants. But whoever denies Jesus before men on earth will be publicly denied by Him before all heaven’s occupants.

Will Jesus confess or deny you? That question should be very important to us. If He *confesses* us, we will enjoy heaven’s everlasting bliss. But if He *denies* us, we will suffer hell’s everlasting misery.

We will here answer these four questions:

1. What is it to confess?
2. Whom are we to confess?
3. Before whom are we to confess Him?
4. How are we to confess Him?

I. What is it to confess? The basic meaning of this Greek verb translated *confess* is “to say the same things as another”. (The Greek verb is *homologeō*, from *homos*=“same” + *lego*=“to speak”.) It is to *declare* agreement with that one, *admit* agreement with him when accused of doing so, not *denying* what he is or said.

II. Whom are we to confess? Jesus says we are to confess “Me”. We are to confess a *person*, not a *thing*. This person we are to confess is *the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*. There are many things that we must confess regarding Him. Let us consider five of the most important.

1. Confess Jesus Christ as *God*. The Scriptural proofs of His deity are far too numerous for us to here cite. Let it suffice for us to confess with Jehovah and His holy prophets and apostles that Jesus Christ is declared to be:

- “God” (according to God the Father in Hebrews 1:8);
- “the Mighty God” (Isaiah 9:6; cp. Jeremiah 32:17);
- “the Eternal Father” (Isaiah 9:6);
- “My Lord and my God” (John 20:28);
- “the eternally blessed God” (Romans 9:5);
- “our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13; 2 Peter 1:1);

- “the true God and eternal life” (1 John 5:20);
- “God manifested in the flesh” (1 Timothy 3:16; cp. John 1:1-3, 14);
- *Immanuel* (Isaiah 7:14; 8:8), which name literally means “With Us Is God” (see Matthew 1:23);
- “Jehovah Our Righteousness” (Jeremiah 23:6).

If we deny Jesus Christ’s deity, we deny Him, and do not faithfully confess Him, even if we claim to be His followers or witnesses.

2. Confess Jesus Christ as your *only mediator with God* – “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5).

A *mediator* is literally a “go-between”, one who goes between two parties in order to make peace between them. Our sins have separated us from God and made us to be His enemies (Isaiah 59:2). We are too sinful to approach God. And God is too holy to approach us. But Jesus Christ has become the Mediator between God and men:

- being *God*, He represents God to men;
- being *man*, He represents men to God;
- being the *God-Man*, He brings the two together and thereby makes peace between them.

Being our *only* mediator, we must not, as do others, confess Mary or the saints to be our mediator. They who do so deny Jesus Christ.

3. Confess Jesus Christ as your *only prophet from God*. A *prophet* is God’s “spokesman” to His people, one to whom God reveals His truth and sends to His people to give that revelation to them. In Old Testament times, God sent prophets like Moses, Elijah and Elisha, the writers of the prophetic books of the Holy Scriptures (Isaiah-Malachi), and John the Baptist. But at the beginning of these last days, God sent Jesus Christ to be His final prophet. For “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son” (Hebrews 1:1f).

Therefore, Jesus Christ is denied by those who follow any man or woman claiming to be a prophet with new revelation from God.

4. Confess Jesus Christ as your *only priest to God*. As the *prophet* is God’s representative to His people, the *priest* is their representative to God, interceding for them to God with a sacrifice for their sins.

Jesus Christ is the final priest to God because He is the only priest who made an effectual offering for our sins (Hebrews 10:11-14): “And every priest [i.e., those of the Old Covenant] stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man [Jesus Christ], after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever [in His death on Mount Calvary], sat down at the right hand of God For by one offering

[which was Himself as God's Lamb] He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified."

Therefore, Jesus Christ is denied by those who resort to men and women claiming to be priests and making sacrifices for the forgiveness of their sins.

5. Confess Jesus Christ as your *supreme ruler* – for He is "King of kings and Lord of lords" (Revelation 19:16; 17:14). Give proper respect and obedience to civil authorities (Romans 13:1-7). But when they require that which is contrary to the Lord and King Jesus, say with His apostles "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

Therefore, Christ is denied by those who obey men rather than God.

III. Before whom are we to confess Him? Jesus identifies them when He speaks of "whoever confesses Me before men".

Confession of Jesus Christ is not a private deed.

IV. How are we to confess Him? And note that we are not to merely *profess* Him. Many *professing* Christians are not *confessing* Christians.

1. We are to join the confessing mouth to our believing heart (Romans 10:9f): "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. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

It is not enough to merely believe in Jesus Christ. Even Satan and his demons do so. Rather, the believing heart must express itself through the confessing mouth.

2. We are to confess Jesus Christ in baptism. In this sacred ordinance we confess that we have died with Him, been buried with Him through immersion, been raised from the dead and our watery grave with Him to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:3ff).

Baptism is our public confession of faith. It should be done as soon as possible after one has believed unto salvation – as when Ananias said to the new convert Saul of Tarsus, "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized" (Acts 22:16).

We therefore have no confidence in the profession of faith by those who refuse to be baptized.

Baptism is for only believers. This is seen in the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:36-38): "And the eunuch said, 'See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?' Then Philip [the evangelist] 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.' So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip

and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him."

Therefore, so-called "infant baptism", in which unbelieving infants are "baptized", is neither Scriptural baptism nor a confession of Christ.

Baptism necessitates immersion. This is seen in what we declared above. Dropping some water on someone's head is not a confession of being buried and raised from the grave with Jesus Christ.

Have you confessed Jesus Christ in baptism?

3. We are to confess Jesus Christ by telling others what He has done for us. A foremost example of this is recorded in the conversion of the Gadarene demoniac (Luke 8:38f): "Jesus sent him away, saying, 'Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.' And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him."

We have no confidence in the profession of those who do not delight in speaking of Jesus and what He has done for them, or who find greater pleasure in talking about some other one or thing.

4. We are to confess Jesus Christ until death.

Judas Iscariot confessed Christ, but later denied Him by betraying Him and died in unbelief. Jesus denied Judas, and does not confess him.

Peter the apostle denied Christ but later repented and confessed Him – as in his message on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14-40). Jesus forgave Peter's denial, and now confesses him.

Polycarp, an associate of John the apostle, is a sterling example of one who confessed Christ until death. When in A.D.155 the Roman proconsul demanded Polycarp to recant, the faithful martyr declared, "Eighty and six years I have served Him, and He has done me no wrong. How then can I blaspheme my King and Savior?" Polycarp's confession of Jesus resulted in him being burned at the stake and pierced with a spear. But Jesus confesses Polycarp, and does not deny him.

If you faithfully confess Jesus Christ on earth until you die, He will receive you in heaven and forever confess you there.

But if you unrepentantly deny Jesus Christ on earth, He will deny you from heaven and never confess you there.

Will you confess Jesus Christ and be confessed by Him?

– Daniel E. Parks