



**Confessing
Christ**

Confessing Christ is a Step in Our Salvation
 Confessing Christ is an Ongoing Commitment
 An important part of being a Christian
 is being confessional!

Confessing Christ

Christian First Principles #7

OPEN (5-10 minutes)

What, if any, difference is there between a conversation and a confession?

DIG (20-25 minutes) **Read Matthew 10:32-33; Philippians 3:4-11 & Philippians 2:5-11**

1. What does it mean for Jesus to acknowledge/confess us before His Father in heaven?
What does it mean for Jesus to disown/deny us?
2. What role do we have in Jesus' decision to acknowledge us or disown us?
3. What exactly does Paul mean when he speaks of "knowing" Christ Jesus (Phil 3:8)?
4. Describe how it will look and sound on Judgment Day when every knee bows and every tongue confesses that Jesus is Lord (Phil 2:10-11).

REFLECT (25-30 minutes)

1. It is customary for the person *assisting* the baptism to offer a confession of faith while the person *being* baptized confirms it. Is this the best way to "take someone's confession?"
2. How does it make you feel to know that your salvation depends, at least in part, on your willingness to publicly confess your faith in Jesus Christ?
3. Describe at least one instance of God doing something meaningful in your life this week.
Have you shared this with anyone else?
4. Has living in a nation founded on Christian principles helped make you a stronger Christian or a weaker Christian?
5. What has kept you from standing up for Jesus when the people around you oppose Him?
Fear of dying a martyr's death? Fear of something far less threatening?
6. Compare these two definitions of biblical confession.
Confessions of faith are public declarations of unqualified confidence in Christ, and of surrender to His service (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia).
The Bible . . . uses the word confession to describe an open, bold, and courageous proclamation of one's faith (Nelson's Bible Dictionary).
7. How can you speak to others about what God is doing in you, with you and through you in a way that gives all the glory to Him?
8. Develop a short (under a minute) confession of your faith in Christ.

PRAYER TIME - Give thanks to God for Christ's willingness to testify on your behalf. Ask God to give you courage to proclaim your faith in Christ, even to a hostile audience.