

Confess The Lord Jesus

The Bible tells us that in order to be saved we must believe that God has raised Jesus from the dead. Those who reject that teaching aren't saved. This is something you *must* believe in order to be a Christian.

However, there's something else we must do as well:

Romans 10:9-10: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Yes, we must believe that God has raised Jesus from the dead. The apostle Paul makes that very clear. However, we must also *confess* that we believe. We must confess that Jesus is our Lord and Savior. We must not hide that fact, and we must *never* deny Him.

It's true that we're saved by grace through faith, and not by works. We can find this important doctrine taught throughout the Bible:

Ephesians 2:8-9: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

2 Timothy 1:9: "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,"

Romans 11:5-6: "Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."

However, as James said, our works demonstrate what we truly believe:

James 2:17-20: "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"

Genuine salvation will always produce good works! If we have the Holy Spirit in our life then we will *absolutely* produce the fruits of the Spirit. Good works are never the *cause* of salvation, but they're always the *result*. That means if good works are absent from our life then salvation is absent as well. If we're not bearing the fruits of the Spirit then that means we lack the Holy Spirit.

Jesus was very clear that in order to be saved we must confess that He is our Lord and Savior:

Matthew 10:32: "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven."

Luke 12:8: "Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son

of man also confess before the angels of God:"

Jesus was equally clear that He would deny knowing those who denied Him:

Matthew 10:33: "But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."

Luke 12:9: "But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God."

In order to be saved you *must not* hide the fact that you're a Christian. You can't deny Jesus and claim that you don't know Him. If you do, He will do the same thing to you on the day of judgment. Confessing Jesus isn't optional. It's something that all Christians must do.

That's actually part of the purpose of baptism. It makes a public statement that you are indeed a Christian and you do believe that Jesus is both your Lord and Savior:

1 Peter 3:21: "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"

This verse isn't saying that baptism washes away our sins. In fact, it explicitly says that baptism does *not* wash away "the filth of the flesh"! What baptism does do is publicly proclaim that Jesus is our Lord. That's the "answer of a good conscience toward God": we've confessed that He is indeed our Lord and Savior, that we're not ashamed of Him, and that we don't deny Him.

I'm not suggesting that in order to be saved you must make sure that everyone you meet in the street knows that you're a Christian. (None of the apostles did that.) I'm also not arguing that

you must be baptized in order to be saved. The thief who died on the cross next to Jesus wasn't baptized, and yet he was saved:

Luke 23:42-43: "And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."

What that thief did do was *publicly confess that Jesus was his Lord*. He made his public confession.

Now, I'm not saying that if someone is saved when no one is around, and they die before they can tell anyone about their faith, that they're not actually saved because they never publicly confessed it. I'm also not arguing that people who can't speak aren't saved because they never confessed "with thy mouth".

The point I *am* trying to make is that if someone believes in Jesus but keeps it hidden for the rest of their life, then they've effectively denied Him. They could have told people about Him but they didn't. Instead they never breathed a word to anyone and acted as if they didn't know Him at all. They succeeded in making everyone believe that they weren't saved – and that's a big problem.

Jesus is clear that in order to be saved we must confess Him. We *must* admit that we're Christians. We need to tell *someone* about our allegiance to the Lord Jesus.

It's true that there may be cases where a person is saved but finds it impossible to tell anyone before they die. (Deathbed conversions are one example.) However, I suspect that type of situation is very rare.

For many people I imagine this isn't a problem at all. In fact, those who are genuinely saved have a *passionate desire* to tell other people that they're Christians! They want to spread the good news of the gospel because it's very good and exciting news, and they want everyone to know (and join them in the faith). The thought of being a secret Christian is contrary to the burning

passion of their heart, which is to tell everyone around them that Jesus saves.

Christians need to hold on to that passion to tell others about Jesus and never lose it. The people who are saved are the ones who *confess Him*:

1 John 4:15: "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God."

The world needs to hear our testimony about the great things that God has done – and that means we need to go out there and give it.