CONFESSION The Good Confession

Notes:

Confession is key to cultivating a culture for Christ.
We will break down into three parts:

Part 1: The Good Confession (Acknowledging His Lordship in our lives)
Part 2: Confessing our sins to the Father, and

• Part 3: Confessing our sins to one another.

Confession is vitally important in our response to Christ to be saved.

MATTHEW 16:13-21

Peter's confession of who Jesus really was, was a confession revealed to Him by the Father, and provided the foundation for the building of the church.

The foundation of the church, and the heart of our faith, is recognizing, and standing up for, the true identity of Christ. As the body of Christ in the world today, we should never be ashamed to represent Jesus by our words and by our lives.

Jesus came to demonstrate His true identity as the Son of God and when we are the body of Christ, we have the same mission: to **show** the world who Jesus is by *our own new identity as His disciples*.

We talked last week that we must acknowledge that Jesus is THE way, THE truth, and THE life. No one can come to the Father except through Him.

That alone eliminates the possibility of being a member of the body of Christ while disavowing who Christ actually was/is.

Our salvation depends, in part, on what we SAY.

Paul writes in Romans 10:9-10, "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."

CULTURE OF CONFESSION

So what exactly are we confessing? Notes: Christ's incarnation- "This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world." -John (I John 4:2,3) Christ's Lordship- "...at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." -Paul (Phil. 2:10-11) Why is important that we proclaim Him publicly? 1. It is a test of faith. "Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also." – John (I John 2:22-23) 2. It is a prerequisite for Jesus claiming us. "Whoever acknowledges Me before others, I will also acknowledge before My Father in heaven. But whoever disowns Me before others, I will disown before My Father in heaven." - Jesus (Matthew 10:32-33) This is not just a one-time confession but an on-going, continual witnessing of our faith in Christ. 3. Evidence of a spiritual union "If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God." -John (I John 4:15) So, what keep us from making the good confession before God and men? A distorted view of God Do we question the goodness of God? Is He transactional in our lives more than relational?

CULTURE OF CONFESSION

"If God answers our prayers the way we want, we celebrate His faithfulness and His love; but if He doesn't, we not only wonder if He cares, we are also tempted to wonder if He is even there. In this way, prayer often amounts to shopping at the Trinitarian department store for things that you have told yourself you need with the hope that they will be free." -Paul David Tripp

Fellow believers acting poorly- We must be true to our identity in Christ even when those around us (who often bear the name of Christ) may not being representing well.

• Paul reminds his son in the faith, Timothy, "Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses." -Paul (I Timothy 6:12)

Fear of men- (Jesus at the Festival of Tabernacles) "Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about Him. Some said, "He is a good man." Others replied, "No, He deceives the people." But no one would say anything publicly about Him for fear of the leaders." -John 7:13

Persecution "Then He called the crowd to Him along with His disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Me and for the gospel will save it." -Jesus (Mark 8:34-35)

False teachers "...many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist." -John (2 John 7)

Points To Ponder As We Prepare To Part:

• In what areas of my life do I need to better model my confession that Jesus is the Lord of my life?

Notes: