

Do You Know: Confession's Role In Salvation?

David Halbrook

“...that 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” (Romans 10:9-10). This text teaches—

1. Sinners must confess that Jesus is Lord. Paul makes it clear that “confession” in this verse means speaking your conviction concerning Jesus Christ. This confession is not “listing your sins” but telling all who will listen that you have decided to follow Jesus.

2. Salvation is not by faith alone. You cannot believe that “salvation is by faith alone” and accept Romans 10:9-10. Believing in Jesus without confessing Him leaves us lost.

3. Man must work to be saved. Though it is simple, confession is work. Speaking requires thought, conviction, and even physical energy. Does the work of confession earn salvation? Of course not, but you cannot be saved without confessing your conviction of the Christ.

4. Confession is essential to salvation. Read Acts 8:37 and Matthew 16:16 to learn more about this confession.

-- *Editor's Note:* Most people who accept the Bible would agree that we must confess Christ, but they do not understand its role in conversion. If you know someone like that, help them to find this article, if you think it might help. Or, hand this article to a waitress, bank teller, etc as you leave. Pray for God to help the lost and then do your part to give someone an opportunity to learn the gospel this week! (Thank you for your prayers for Starla and I. We hope to be home next week.)

Church of Christ—Quail Valley
4104 E. Harrison St.
Batesville, AR 72501
Office- (870) 793-6700

Evangelists:
David Halbrook 569-4491
Lenoard Westbrook 612-8409

The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

February 19, 2012

WWW.QVCOC.COM

SIX QUESTIONS OF LIFE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

David Riggs

What kind of son or daughter shall I be? The world says, "You are only young once, so enjoy it in every way you can." This is easy for most young people to accept because they want freedom from restraint. However, the Bible says "*Remember now thy Creator in the days of your youth*" {*Ecclesiastes 12:1*} Young people need to obey (*Ephesians 6:1-3*), and have due consideration for, their parents (*Proverbs 10:1; 17:20,25*). Parents are not as some think just old fogies trying to keep their children from enjoying life. They are mature people who have experienced many of life's problems. Wise young people will heed their advice. (*Proverbs 13:1*)

What Kind of character shall I develop? "*A good name is better than precious ointment.*" {*Ecclesiastes 7:1*} "*A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor than silver and gold.*" {*Proverbs 22:1*} It takes no planting, watering, or cultivating to grow weeds; nor does it take effort to develop worthless character. Developing noble character requires careful attention and diligent effort. Young person, strive to build a good reputation by being pure and godly and by being an example to the believers. {*1 Timothy 4:12*}

With Whom Shall I Choose to Associate? "*Be not deceived: Evil companions corrupt good morals.*" {*1 Corinthians 15:33*} The counterpart of this is also true. Good companionships promote good morals. Young people should avoid the crowd that drinks, dances, tells dirty stories, uses curse words, and laughs at people who attend worship services.

What will be my Life's Occupation? Much depends on the answer to this question. In far too many instances, we place too much emphasis on money. One must be careful to choose an occupation that is honorable and legitimate. Dishonest gain and get-rich-quick schemes should be avoided. This may mean a smaller

income; however, *"Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith."*{Proverbs 15:16} Also, *"Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right."*{Proverbs 16:8}

Whom Shall I Marry? If there is ever a place for clear minds and true ideals, it is in marriage. God's laws must be understood and heeded (*Matthew 5:32; 19:1-9*). Marriage is a lifetime commitment (*Romans 7:2,3; 1 Corinthians 7:39*). The best advice I can give young people is to choose a mate who is a Christian. Marry someone who will encourage you in the way of salvation. If you are unable to convert that boy or girl before marriage, you probably never will; and problems only multiply when children come along.

What Shall I do with My Life in relation to God? If you have not obeyed the gospel, you should answer, "Shall I become a Christian?" Jesus said, *"Whosoever shall be ashamed of me and my words, of him shall the Son of Man be ashamed"* {Luke 9:26} If you are already a Christian, you should answer, "Shall I remain faithful?" *"He that endures unto the end, the same shall be saved."*{Matthew 24:12,13}

LOVE YOUR CHILDREN BY LOVING YOUR MATE (excerpt)

Chris Reeves

Parenting begins with parents. Parents joined in marriage are to children what a foundation is to a house. If you want your children to grow up strong with the right values, then you, as parents must provide them with the right foundation from the beginning. God provided for the home by first creating one man and one woman to be joined in marriage. These two joined in marriage were to be fruitful and multiply (Genesis 1:26-28). The order is this: a godly marriage first, then children. So, how can parents love their children? They can love them by loving their mate. The Apostle Paul wrote that the older women were to teach the younger women *"...to love their husbands, to love their children..."* (Titus 2:4). Loving your children and loving your mate go hand in hand.

Love Your Children By Maintaining a Godly Marriage

Marriages built upon God's word will result in children being raised the right way. Do you have enough love for your children to begin and maintain a godly marriage? Marriage begins with one man and one woman for life (Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:4-6). This kind of marriage is honorable among all (Hebrews 13:4).

There are problems when children are brought into the world without a godly set of parents guiding them. The percentage of out-of-wedlock births increased 511 percent

from 1960 to 1997.ⁱ And, the percentage of single-parent families more than tripled during this time.ⁱⁱ Between 1960 and 1997 the marriage rate decreased 33 percent.ⁱⁱⁱ Children born out of wedlock and to single parents often end up as juvenile delinquents because they do not have the nurturing they need from a godly father and mother. Even if two parents are present in the life of a child, it is possible for these parents to neglect the child to the point of shame (Proverbs 29:15). God wants two godly parents – one man and one woman living the way God directs – to be fruitful and multiply. Parents who are first directed by God's word will be able to *"train up a child in the way he should go"* (Proverbs 22:6). What if your marriage is not built upon the principles of God's word? Fix it! Do you love your children enough to correct any wrongs in your marriage?

Maintaining a godly marriage also takes time together. Wise Solomon wrote, *"And rejoice in the wife of thy youth"* (Proverbs 5:18), and again, *"Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days..."* (Ecclesiastes 9:9). Peter wrote that a godly husband and wife are *"heirs together of the grace of life"* (1 Peter 3:7). Marriage is a *"one flesh"* relationship (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5-6; Ephesians 5:31). You may be married with children, but you must also spend some time during the day together with your spouse rejuvenating your relationship. Enjoy life together! Yes, raising children involves time, but parents must also put a priority on their own time together. Time spent together physically and spiritually will help parents to meet the challenges of raising children. Remember, partnership comes first, then parenthood.

[Other topics in this article include Love your children by: setting the right example, sharing the responsibility, remaining committed. You can read the entire article at http://thegoodteacher.com/?page_id=13]

ⁱ *The Index of Leading Cultural Indicators*, page 47 (WaterBrook Press, 1999).

ⁱⁱ *Ibid.* page 57.

ⁱⁱⁱ *Ibid.* page 63.

Psalms 73:24-28

You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory.
Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry. But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, That I may declare all Your works.