
PUBLIC PROFESSION

LESSON THREE

There is a difference in meaning between "Christian" and "disciple." A Christian is a person who has received Christ as his Savior, while a "disciple" comes from the root word "discipline." A disciple, therefore, is a disciplined Christian. Or to put it another way, a disciple is an obedient believer, one who recognizes Jesus Christ not only as Savior but also as LORD.

When you receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you are saved and safe eternally, as far as your soul is concerned. *"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"* (Rom. 10:13). If Jesus Christ is truly Lord of your life, you will obey Him in all things. As an obedient believer, you will do as Christ commands: *"Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves"* (James 1:22).

One of the first steps to take in your Christian walk is to make public your faith in Christ. Confession of your personal faith in the Lord Jesus is one step in acknowledging the Lordship of Christ: *"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation"* (Rom. 10:10). Jesus said, *"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess before my Father which is in heaven"* (Matt. 10:32).

You should immediately tell your friends and loved ones of your salvation. Also, in the local church, you should go forward during the invitation and tell the pastor that you have accepted Christ as your Savior.

As new Christians we must not keep the glorious message of the Gospel to ourselves. We must not be ashamed of Christ or His Gospel. The Apostle Paul set the example for us: *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth"* (Rom. 1:16). Christ was not ashamed of you on the cross; do not be ashamed of Christ on earth. Public profession of your faith in Jesus Christ is commanded by the Lord Jesus. It will help you to grow in grace and knowledge as a child of God. Also, others will be encouraged by your obedience to Him in this important matter.

TRUTH IN REVIEW: (Look up verses)

*A disciple is a Christian who is obedient to Christ as Lord (Luke 6:46).
A disciple is commanded to be a doer of the word (James 1:22-24).
One of the first steps for a Christian is to confess Christ before men (Matt. 10:32).*

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:

1. A disciple is an O _____ C _____.
2. Christ must not only be our Savior, but also our _____.
3. If Christ is Lord, then we will not be _____ of Him.
4. He commands us to confess Him to other _____.
5. We must be " _____ " of the Word and not hearers only.
6. Public profession of our faith in Jesus Christ is a first step of obedience: True ___ False ___.
7. Telling a friend or relative about being saved is a form of public profession: True ___ False ___.
8. We make a public profession of faith in obedience to Christ and to strengthen our faith: True ___ False ___.

ANSWERS:

Lesson 3: 1. Obedient/Christian 2. Lord 3. Ashamed 4. Men (people) 5. Doers
6. True 7. True 8. True