



Let the Redeemed Say So!

1 Peter 3:8-16 John 1:35-42 Matthew 16:13-19

October 14, 2018

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AS DISCIPLES OF THE LORD JESUS, we are to be *ever ready* to tell others about the Him. We are to know, believe and understand the Gospel so well that we can share it *accurately* with others. Since we are baptized, and we are continually learning more and more about the Lord, ***we are the perfect ones to share Christ with others.***

Psalm 107 says, *“Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, for He has redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.”* Psalm 107:1

Peter says, *“Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have.”* 1 Peter 3:15

John says, *“How can we not speak of what we have seen and heard?”* Acts

4:20

Jesus said, *“Everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father in heaven.”* Matthew 10:32

When you *share your faith* with other people, you are confessing Christ and the Christian faith to them.

As conservative Lutheran Christians, we are a **“Confessing People”**. To **“confess”** the Christian faith means that you **ECHO** what God teaches us in His Word. The Holy Spirit works in you to open your heart and your mind so that you learn the truth about Who God is and what He has done for you, and then you share that with other people. It’s like an **ECHO**: *what you hear & learn, you repeat & share.* **That is Confessing Christ to others!**

As conservative Lutheran Christians, we are a “**Confessing People:**” *we boldly speak about what God’s Word teaches us.* And this confession is your *witness*¹; this is your *evangelism*². By the power of **the Holy Spirit**, you tell people what you have learned about **the Father** and **the Son** from Holy Scriptures.

We know, believe *and confess* that **God the Father** is the Creator of the Heavens and the earth, of everything visible and invisible. We believe that He has called us to faith, He watches over our lives, He listens to our prayers, and He provides for our daily bread. His loving care in our lives is seen in countless ways, and we trust that He is at work for our good in all things.

When you confess God the Father to people, you simply tell them these things. You can even tell them stories of how God has provided for you personally and how his loving kindness is seen in your life. **Don’t you have stories to tell of God’s love and care for you?** If you have stories about God the Father’s love and care for you, **then tell them!** Your family, friends, and neighbors need to hear about God the Father’s loving care!

We also know, believe, *and confess* that **Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Savior of the world.** We know that He lived a perfect, sinless life, which is credited to us. We know that He died a sacrificial death, which takes our sins away, and we know that His resurrection from dead gives us eternal life. **Everything Jesus did, He did for us.**

¹ In the New Testament, the word “**witness**” is *martyr*; a “*martyr/witness*” reveals the truth of God’s love in Christ to men in word and deed. In the New Testament, this word is used to describe Jesus Himself, who witnessed/revealed God’s love by giving up His life and dying on a cross for all people.

² The word “**evangelism**” comes from the New Testament word “*evangelical*” which means “good news”. This is the normal word that is translated Gospel. Our “*evangelism*” is sharing the Gospel Good News about Jesus’ death and resurrection to our family, friends, and neighbors that brings repentance and forgiveness of sins.

When you confess Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world, you simply tell people about Him. You can even tell them about the **peace** you have with God and in your conscience. You can tell them about the **hope** that you have in the face of death and dying. You can tell them how the Lord **intervened** in your life in Holy Baptism and how He **strengthens** you through His powerful Word.

Confessing Jesus Christ to other people is the most important thing you can talk about! **It has eternal significance!** If you know and believe that your sins are forgiven and heaven is your home, **then tell others!** Your family, friends, and neighbors need to hear about the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World!

Remember that *confessing* **God the Father** and the **Lord Jesus** to other people is the **Holy Spirit** at work in and through you. You are not out there on your own trying to do this; the Holy Spirit lives in you, has helped you learn the Christian faith, and He will help you confess it to others! **The Holy Spirit both TEACHES, and helps you ECHO, the Christian faith to others.**

In the Gospel lesson for today, Andrew reminds us of the importance of sharing Christ with our families. John the Baptist showed Andrew the Savior, and then Andrew went and told his brother Peter about the Savior. The most important people in your life need to hear about eternal salvation in the Lord Jesus!

TELL THEM!

Sharing your faith with your family is very important!

Like Andrew did with Peter, share your faith with your family!

But unlike Andrew, you might not see results right away. Be patient. Persevere. Speak the truth in love in kind and gentle ways. The Holy Spirit does not always work in the timeframe we would like. Confessing Christ and sharing your faith --- your witness and your evangelism --- is like planting and watering seeds . . . it will take time. Just keep doing it at opportune times. Keep inviting them to worship with you. Keep talking about what the Lord has done for you. Confessing Christ and sharing your faith --- your witness and your evangelism -- is like planting and watering seeds. . . . it might take time.

It is possible that God will have each of us . . . present his word to a person or people who has, or have, rejected his word in the past, and who will continue to turn away from it. We must maintain our witness for the Lord, as the opportunity exists, not knowing whether the person or people will persist in unbelief or be brought to faith. God gives the harvest; the results are in his hands. **We just keep on speaking the truth, asking God to help us be as winsome as possible, knowing that God is the one who makes a person a believer.**

Reflections on the Ministry of Elijah,
Walter A. Maier III, Concordia Theological Quarterly
Volume 80:1-2 January/April 2016

Confessing the Christian faith means that you **ECHO** what God teaches you in His Word. *What you hear & learn, you repeat & share.* May **God the Holy Spirit** motivate you to confess to others what you know and believe about **God the Father** and **God the Son Jesus Christ . . . especially your own family!**

AMEN!