

CONFESS / DECLARE

(ὁμολογέω = 'homoloyeho')

To confess, to declare openly, admit, to say the same thing as another, to agree with, to profess, to admit or declare one's guilt, to speak out freely, to assent.

Matthew 10:32, “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.” A literal translation of this verse is, **“Therefore, whoever declares Me openly (unashamedly) before men, I will also declare openly (unashamedly) before My Father who is in heaven.”** This is a proud declaration of friendship. It is like a son bringing a friend home to meet his father after having told the friend how wonderful his father is. There is no guilt of embarrassment in this action. The boy is so proud of his dad that he can't wait to introduce him to his friend! This is exactly how we are expected to act before men concerning Jesus. And when we do it, Jesus promises that He will act exactly the same way before His Father in heaven. Quite simply, when we acknowledge Christ before men, He acknowledges us before His Father in heaven. That is a good trade off – isn't it?

This verse is encouraging us to speak out freely, and declare openly, the deep conviction we have concerning Jesus Christ – in spite of any opposition! We must remember that Matthew's original audience was Jewish converts to the Christian faith, and these converts were having a rough time. They had been rejected, cut off, and disinherited by their families. They were no longer allowed to worship in the inner part of the Temple. They were being persecuted for their faith. They were dragged in front of the Sanhedrin and forced to answer ridiculous charges. Their possessions and wealth were often confiscated or destroyed. If they were in business, the business was suffering because Jews refused to have any dealings with them. If they worked for a Jewish employer they probably lost their job. Therefore, it is only natural that these converts began to waver in their faith. Many were wondering whether it was worth it. They wondered if the price they were paying was too high.

Matthew 10:32 is part of the instructions that Jesus had given to His twelve disciples. Matthew wanted to encourage and build up these dispirited and wavering converts to the Christian faith. He wanted to assure them that they had made the right decision in following after Christ. This verse tells them to do something quite specific. Notice, Jesus didn't just say, “confess Me,” He says, **“confess Me before men!”** It is a public declaration and affirmation of our faith. Even more, when we do this we are publicly endorsing and authenticating our faith - by our own words! And this is pleasing to both Jesus and His Father in heaven. I can imagine Jesus standing in the throne room of grace saying, *“I died for that person. With my blood I've ransomed him and have redeemed him. That person cannot be judged or condemned because I was judged and condemned in his place. I am proud to be associated with that person. He is a close friend of mine.”*