

Claiming the Faith

Lesson #23

When do we Proclaim our Faith?

Resources Needed

A Brief Statement of Faith

0:00 Welcoming Prayer: from Psalm 19, adapted

O Lord,
Your law is perfect, refreshing the soul.
Your statutes are trustworthy, making wise the simple.
Your precepts are right, giving joy to the heart.
Your commands are radiant, giving light to the eyes.
May our words and meditations be pleasing in your sight,
O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

0:05 Key Concepts

Professing Faith

0:10 Key Scriptures

Romans 10: 8-13

8 But what does it say? The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: 9 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. 10 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. 11 As Scripture says, Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

0:15 Exposition

0:30 Discussion and Reflection

1. Does professing your faith secure your salvation? If not, then why publicly proclaim a faith at all?
2. What does the Brief Statement of Faith include that resonates with your own profession of faith?

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3. Begin to think about what you would want to include in your own public profession of faith. What would be important to include in your statement that may not be included in the Brief Statement of Faith?

0:45 Concluding Remarks

The goal in any discipleship or confirmation study course is to equip the student to be able to articulate a profession of faith for themselves.

In 1983, a great reconciliation within Reformed churches in America was established through the unification of several of the branches of Presbyterianism, forming the PC(USA). During this timeframe of reunification, there began work on a new Confession of the church which would both articulate the confessions of the past while recognizing the moment in history the church was in. This confession, The Brief Statement of Faith, was recognized and added to the Book of Confessions by the PC(USA) General Assembly in 1991. In this statement of faith, we have a model or template for the format of a personal statement of faith each of us could use to begin to articulate what we believe.

0:50 Sending Prayer: from John Calvin's *Catechism of the Church in Geneva*

Lord God, I give you thanks for all the benefits and gifts you constantly shower on me. Thank you for sustaining my physical life through food and shelter; for giving me new life through the gospel; and for the certainty of the best and perfect life, which is yet to come. In light of all these blessings, I now ask that you would not allow my affections to be tangled in inordinate desires for the things of this world, but let me always set my heart on things above, where Christ, who is my life, is seated at your right hand. Hear me, merciful Father, by our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Notes