

Confession

I. Confession

A. 4 words used to express the idea of confession

1. 3 all share the same root:
 - i. A verb meaning to *concede, admit, confess*, literally: "to say together with"
 - ii. A noun meaning *confession, profession, or recognition*, literally: "say the same thing as"
 - iii. An adverb (used only once) meaning *confessedly*
2. The last is a verb, meaning *to confess, admit, profess* or *express agreement with*
 - i. A compound word literally meaning *to say out* emphasizing the external confession or proclamation.

B. ὁμολογέω (Verb - 26 times in 23 verses)

1. Used 11 times miscellaneously - having nothing to do with confession of sin
2. Used 11 times for confessing Jesus
 - i. (Matthew 10:32 NNAS) "Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.
 - ii. (Luke 12:8 NNAS) "And I say to you, everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man will confess him also before the angels of God;
 - iii. (John 9:22 NNAS) His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.
 - iv. (Romans 10:9 NNAS) that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;
 - v. (Romans 10:10 NNAS) for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.
 - vi. (1 Timothy 6:12 NNAS) Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.
 - vii. (1 John 2:23 NNAS) Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.
 - viii. (1 John 4:2 NNAS) By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;

- ix. (1 John 4:15 NNAS) Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.
- 3. Used 3 times for those not confessing Jesus
 - i. (John 12:42 NNAS) Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue;
 - ii. (1 John 4:3 NNAS) and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.
 - iii. (2 John 1:7 NNAS) For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.
- 4. The word is used 1 time for confession of sin
 - i. (1 John 1:9 NNAS) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

c. ὁμολογία (Noun - 6 times in 6 verses)

- 1. Used five times for the Confession of the Gospel, 1 directly, 4 by inference
 - i. (2 Corinthians 9:13 NNAS) Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,
 - ii. (1 Timothy 6:12 NNAS) Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.
 - iii. (Hebrews 3:1 NNAS) Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession;
 - iv. (Hebrews 4:14 NNAS) Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.
 - v. (Hebrews 10:23 NNAS) Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;
- 2. Used once for Jesus making the good confession before Pontius Pilate
 - i. (1 Timothy 6:13 NNAS) I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate,

d. ὁμογουμένως (Adverb - 1 time in 1 verse)

- 1. Used once for common confession
 - i. (1 Timothy 3:16 NNAS) By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit,

Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world,
Taken up in glory.

E. ἑξομολογέω (Verb - 10 times in 10 verses)

1. Used 4 times with the meaning giving praise (*confessing out praise*)
2. Used once for Judas *consenting* (*confessing out consent*) to betray Jesus
3. Used once for the day when *every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord*
 - i. (Philippians 2:9-11 NNAS) For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, {10} so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, {11} and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
4. Used 4 times for confession of sin:
 - i. 2 times prior to the cross - in parallel passages in Matthew & Mark (*confessing out their sin to John the Baptist*)
 - a. (Matthew 3:6 NNAS) and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.
 - b. (Mark 1:5 NNAS) And all the country of Judea was going out to him, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.
 - ii. 2 times after the cross
 - a. Once for confessing sinful practices to Paul & the Christians
 - 1) (Acts 19:11-20 NNAS) God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, {12} so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out. {13} But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." {14} Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. {15} And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" {16} And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. {17} This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified. {18} Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices. {19} And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of

silver. {20} So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.

b. Once for confessing sins to other believers

- 1) (James 5:14-16 NNAS) Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; {15} and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. {16} Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

F. Conclusion

1. Of the 43 occurrences of the words sometimes translated as "confess" only 1 time after the cross is a word used to speak of confession of sin to God: 1 John 1:9
2. 2 times prior to the cross for confessing sins to another human being, John the Baptist
3. 1 time after the cross for confessing sins to other humans being in James 5:16
4. 1 time after the cross for confessing sinful practices to Paul and the Christians, in the context referring to practices of witchcraft, etc.