

**“Do you believe in one God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and do you confess Jesus as your Saviour and Lord?”**

Question: What does belief involve?

1. Facts

- a. One God (Deuteronomy 6:4).
- b. 3 Persons – Father, Jesus (Son of the Father), and Holy Spirit sent by the Son (Genesis 1:2; 1:26; Matthew 28:18-20; John 1:1, 14, 18; 4:24; 10:30; 14:9f; 16:7f; 20:28; Hebrews 1:3).

2. Faith

- a. Commitment/ action (Luke 18:18-29).
- b. Trust (Proverbs 3:5-6).

3. Feelings

We can always rely on God and His promises in the Bible. But we can't always rely on our feelings. It might be helpful to think of the relationship between Facts, Faith and Feelings through the illustration of a train. The Facts of God and his Word, the Bible, are like the engine pulling the carriages of Faith. Our Faith, trust and commitment, is driven by God and His Word. Feelings are like the guard's van. It would be impossible to pull the train by the guard's van. In the same way it is important to rely on God and the Bible and not depend on our feelings or emotions which may come and go.

Question: What is it we are 'confessing' (declaring)?

1. Jesus as Saviour

- a. All are lost in sin (Romans 3:9-12; 3:23; 6:23).
- b. Jesus is the means by which our sins are forgiven (Romans 3:24-25).
- c. When we put our trust in him
  - i. We are Saved (Romans 10:9).
  - ii. We are forgiven (1 John 1:9).
  - iii. We receive eternal life (John 11: 25-26).

2. Jesus as Lord

- a. New Master (Romans 6:13, 22; 12:1-2)
- b. Implications
  - i. We obey him (Luke 6:46f)
  - ii. He comes first (Mark 8:34f)

**Do you promise to join regularly with your fellow Christians in worship on the Lord's day?**

Question: Why is regular worship important?

1. It is important to meet together (Hebrews 10:25).
2. It is important to keep the Sabbath/Lord's day
  - a. Holy to the Lord because we are freed (Deuteronomy 5:14).
  - b. We are to rest as God did (Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-14).

**Do you promise to give a fitting proportion of your time, talents and money for the Church's work in the world?**

Question: With what attitude do we give?

1. As an expression of our love (2 Corinthians 8:2-12).
2. Gladly/cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Question: How much do we give?

1. A proportion (Deuteronomy 16:16-17).
  - a. Old Testament – Tithe, i.e. 1/10<sup>th</sup> (Malachi 3:8-10)
  - b. New Testament – Not prescribed but practiced (Acts 2:44f; 4:32f).
2. A 'sacrifice' (2 Samuel 24:24; Luke 21:1-4).
3. A priority (Exodus 23:19).

**Do you promise to be faithful in Bible reading and in prayer?**

Question: Why are reading the Bible and prayer important?

1. Bible reading (Psalm 1:2; 19:7-11; 119:9, 11, 105; John 14:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12).
2. Prayer.
  - a. Personal, c/f Jesus (Luke 5:16; 6:12; Philippians 4:6-7).
  - b. Corporate (Acts 1:14; 4:31; 12:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:17)

**Do you promise, depending on the grace of God, to confess Christ before men, to serve him in your daily work and to walk in his ways all the days of your life?**

Question: Why do you think it is important our faith results in action?

1. Share his gospel (Matthew 28:19; John 15:1f).
2. Live for him (Micah 6:8; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:21).

