

- **Slide 1: Our Common Confession**
 - I love the Word of God and love to teach it
 - Written to us vs. written for us
 - I love diving into the book to see how those it was written to would have understood
- **Slide 2: Revelation 3:15-16 – Full Verses – Example of understanding a text**
 - Laodicea water supply issues
 - Hieropolis – hot springs
 - Colossae – cold water from nearby mountains
- **Slide 3: Our Common Confession**
 - Let me say first usually I will flood with pages of Scriptures when I teach, today is a little different
 - We are going to look at a few verses in the Bible and try to grasp what it is saying
 - Then look at the application with our early Church fathers
 - Then apply it today.
 - So we share something in **common** and we **confess**
 - But, let me ask who is the our?
 - The who or what the OUR is will help us determine what we have in common to confess
 - Our is us, not just ACC but us as in the Church
 - That's many denominations
 - Those that we would consider Orthodox would hold to the same core beliefs
 - But all have slightly different interpretations on secondary doctrines.
 - Some differences may be?
 - Cessationist vs. Continuationist
 - Calvinism vs. Arminianism
 - My story with Calvinism
 - Eternal Security vs. Conditional Security
 - One of my issues is I've heard many people demonize others because of these doctrines.
 - Example: I've heard said a few times that "Once Saved, Always Saved" is a doctrine of demons.
 - Before we say this, let's ask what does one mean by this?
 - Prayed a prayer when they are 7 – That is a horrible doctrine and one that any "once saved always saved" people I know or study would vehemently reject.
 - Do they mean eternally secure? Well a strong Biblical case can be made for this. A view that I hold.
 - We also have a habit of just flat out misrepresenting someone's belief.
 - Calvinists on Arminians
 - Arminians on Calvinists
 - Listen we will be held accountable for Slandering brothers and sisters in Christ. We must guard against bearing false witness against a brother or sister and ignorance cannot be an excuse.
 - While these secondary differences are certainly important doctrines we hold, let's put aside OUR secondary differences and get back to OUR common confession as a Church
 - When we speak of the church what we are referring to Biblically is the Greek Word -Ekklessia

- **Slide 4:** *Eklessia (Multiple Clicks – Ek, Kaleo, Ekklesia, Meaning)*
 - Ek – Out or away
 - Kaleo – To call
 - So Eklessia – to be called out or called out ones – we are gathering of called out ones
 - So what are we called out to do?
 - Well why not go to the first time this word is used in the Bible (only twice in the Gospels– second time is in Matthew 18 with regards to Church Discipline)
- **Slide 5:** *Matthew 16: 13 Now when Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets." 15 He *said to them, "But who do you yourselves say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.*
 - Background
 - Caesarea Philippi
 - North of the Sea of Gallilee – most northern point of Jesus’ ministry
 - Named by Herod Phillip – Son of Herod the Great – to honor himself and Emperor Augustus as Caesar
 - Big into Pan Worship
 - Pan was a fertility god that was half man and half goat
 - Interesting Landmark - Gates of Hades
 - Hades vs Gehanna
 - Hades/Sheol
 - Acts 2:27: For You will not abandon my soul to Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.
 - Psalm 16:8-11
 - 10: For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; You will not allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.
 - Jewish Mind - Realm of the dead, depths of the earth, the grave
 - Gehanna
 - Hell or Gehenna used 12 times
 - Jewish Mind - Came from an actual place called the Valley of Hinnom south of Jerusalem
 - Place of filth and dead animals were cast out and burned as well as children.
 - Valley Hinnom was always burning
 - 2 Chronicles 3:28 and he made offerings in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom and burned his sons as an offering, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel.
 - Interesting you will typically see with Gehenna the word Pyr either in the verse or a parallel verse to that verse.
 - So to a first century Jew these two words have completely different meanings.

- **Slide 6:** *Photo of Gates of Hades*
 - Is a cave where there used to be a spring that came from it
 - They believed during that time that this spring led to the underworld
 - They committed detestable acts that included sacrificed animals to Pan and some historians says at times children were sacrificed
 - If the sacrifice sank it was considered accepted and if it floated they would sacrifice again as it was considered not accepted.
- **Slide 7:** *Matthew 16:13-18: (FULL VERSE SHOWN)*
 - With this in our mind that Christ would have been in this town and perhaps even in front of that cave. Let's reexamine this verse especially what Jesus meant by building His Church on this Rock:
 - Possible Interpretations of on this Rock – 3 or maybe 4 views
 - Peter was the rock
 - Seems more scholars hold this view.
 - Possible could have meant Peter since Peter (Petros) means rock or stone.
 - Since Peter did preach at Pentecost and the Church was born.
 - I have no problem with this interpretation and seems to be a good interpretation of this verse as long as we don't take Peter's position beyond that as some beliefs do.
 - Peter's confession was the rock
 - Jesus was actually referring to the Gates of Hades Rock.
 - One reason I lean towards this interpretation Petros/Peter is a proper masculine noun and Petra/Rock/Cliff is a regular feminine noun
 - It also seems Jesus may have been getting at the rock not because of Peter but because of the rock (Gates of Hades) they were in front of and what it stood for.
 - Or a little of everything lol
 - But either way, the Lord made a big deal about what?
 - Building His Church.
 - What Peter Confessed
 - What was Peter's Confession?
- **Slide 8:** You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God
 - Isn't that not our common confession?
 - Is this not what the Church does?
 - Do we no exalt and glorify the name of Jesus in everything we do?
 - Do we not declare Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of the Living God in everything?
 - John 17:1 Jesus spoke these things; and raising His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, so that the Son may glorify You, 2 just as You gave Him authority over all mankind, so that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 I glorified You on the earth by accomplishing the work which You have given Me to do. 5 And now You, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world existed.
 - John 17:18 Just as You sent Me into the world, I also sent them into the world.
 - How about when Peter at Pentecost and at Cornelius' House?
 - Acts 2:11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking (laleo) in our own tongues of the mighty deeds (Megaleious-Adjective) of God."

- Acts 10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. 45 All the Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had also been poured out on the Gentiles. 46 For they were hearing them speaking (laleo) with tongues and exalting (Megalyno – verb) God.
 - Isn't this in everything we do?
 - When we worship? When we pray? When we hear the Word of God being taught? When we practice spiritual gifts?
 - I mean - What is the primary role of the Holy Spirit?
- **Slide 9:** *John 15:26 "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, namely, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, He will testify (martyreo – witness) about Me,*
 - What is the Spirit testifying about?
- **Slide 10:** *You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God from Matthew 16*
 - Jesus affirms that this statement is true by saying what?
 - Flesh and blood did not reveal this to him.
 - So we know this was a true confession as it was affirmed by our Lord
This is OUR Common Confession
 - With this confession a lot is wrapped into this through the entirety of Scripture that are core doctrines to our faith. Like the Deity of Christ, the Death Burial Resurrection, the Trinity, His Glorious Return, etc.
 - So let me also give a quick warning as well.
- **Slide 11:** *What comes along with a Statement Like that?*
 - What all does that imply when we talk about affirming that He is the Christ and the Son of the Living God?
 - We know Peter was correct when he said it but are there some beliefs that appear to declare this Christ but still not be within Christians Orthodoxy?
- **Slide 12:** *Pause for Clarification*
 - We don't need to grill everyone that claims to be a follower with questions about what do you believe about the trinity, or substitutionary atonement or penal substitution.
 - Also, ignorance or immaturity on doctrine is completely different than rejection of doctrine
- **Slide 13:** *These Issues Were No different then what our church fathers faced*
 - These Heresies today are no different than what's been faced by the church for 2000 years.
 - These are just examples of heresies that at the root of them all attack who Jesus was/is
 - Arianism – Denied the deity of Christ and that Jesus was God's first created being
 - Pelagianism – Adam's sin did not impact man and we are born innocent
 - Marcionism – rejects the Old Testament as Authoritative
 - Sabellianism/Modalism – Only one person, that Father, Son and Holy Spirit are manifestations but yet are not distinct persons
 - Docetism – Jesus only seemed to be human
 - Nestorianism – Jesus existed as two people, body and Spirit. He had a divine nature and human nature and they were completely separate of each other.
 - Gnosticism – Secret Knowledge and Spirit and Matter are separate, spirit good and matter bad
 - Ascetism
 - Antinomianism

● **Slide 14: Early Church Councils**

- First Council of Nicea (325) – Affirmed the deity of Christ. The false doctrine of Arianism was rejected.
- First Council of Constantinople (381) – Clarified the nature of the Holy Spirit
- Council of Ephesus (431) – Clarified the nature of Christ’s personhood. The false teaching of Nestorianism was repudiated.
- Council of Chalcedon (451) – Clarified the teaching concerning Christ’s nature and person, including the “hypostatic union.”
- Second Council of Constantinople (553) – Confirmed the conclusions of the first four councils.
- Various Creeds like the Nicene Creed and Apostles Creed, Athanasian Creed
- Later doctrines like the Westminster Confession of Faith, Heidelberg Catechism, 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

● **Slide 15: Early Church Fathers**

- Origen, Augustine, Irenaeus, Ignatius, Athanasius, Tertullian, Justin Martyr, Jerome, Polycarp, Nicholas (Council of Nicea)

● **Slide 16-20: Saint Nick**

● **Slide 21: This Should Also Show us How to Unify**

- Also to understand that all denominations have errors on secondary doctrine
 - All the Biblical Churches had secondary issues
 - 1 and 2 John – Faced Gnostic influence
 - 1 and 2 Thessalonica had Eschatology issues
 - Romans had issues with displaced Jews merging back with a Gentile Church
 - Galatia – Judaizers were leading people away from Christ.
 - Corinth was just one big issue
 - Guess what, all churches have issues.
- This should also be point for us to rally together, those that hold these primary doctrines

● **Slide 22: Spiritual Giants**

- Well Known Calvinists (varying degrees of Calvinist views)

John Calvin	John Foxe	John F. MacArthur
B. B. Warfield	John Knox	John Piper
Charles Spurgeon	Jonathan Edwards	Albert Mohler
Francis Schaeffer	Martyn Lloyd-Jones	R.C. Sproul
George Mueller	Martin Luther	Voddie Baucham
George Whitefield	D.A. Carson	Wayne Grudem
John Bunyan	James White	

- Well Known Arminians (varying degrees of Arminian views)

Jacobus Arminius	William Lane Craig	J Vernon McGee
AW Tozer	Craig Keener	Billy Graham
John Wesley	David Pawson	RA Torrey
Leonard Ravenhill	Derek Prince	Chuck Smith
CS Lewis	Gordon Fee	Billy Sunday
Oswald Chambers	Ray Comfort	Charles Wesley
DL Moody	Ben Witherington	

● **Slide 23: Michael Brown and James White Photo**

● **Slide 24: Our Common Confession**