

# 1 John 4:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

## Analysis

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**Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.** John provides another test for assurance—confession of Christ. "Whosoever shall confess" (hos ean homologēsē)—homologeō means to confess, acknowledge, declare openly. This is public profession, not private belief only. True faith confesses Christ openly (Romans 10:9-10). The aorist tense suggests definite confession, though the context implies ongoing confession throughout life.

"That Jesus is the Son of God" (hoti Iēsous estin ho huios tou theou)—this confession affirms Jesus's divine nature. "Son of God" indicates unique relationship to the Father, sharing divine nature and equality with God (John 5:18). This confession distinguishes Christianity from all other religions—Jesus is not merely a prophet, teacher, or good man but God's Son, second person of the Trinity, incarnate deity. Confessing this truth requires more than intellectual assent; it involves trust in Christ for salvation and submission to His lordship.

"God dwelleth in him, and he in God" (ho theos en autō menei kai autos en tō theō)—the mutual indwelling again. Those who genuinely confess Christ's deity demonstrate God's indwelling and their abiding in God. This confession is both evidence of salvation and result of salvation. The Spirit enables confession (1 Corinthians 12:3); confession evidences the Spirit's presence. False professors may mouth words, but genuine confession from the heart proves regeneration.

## Historical Context

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Confessing Jesus as God's Son was costly in the Roman Empire. Emperor worship demanded acknowledgment of Caesar as lord and god. Christians who confessed "Jesus is Lord" and "Son of God" faced persecution, even death. Pliny's letter to Trajan described testing Christians by forcing them to curse Christ and worship Caesar's image—genuine Christians refused, demonstrating their confession's reality.

The confession's content—"Jesus is the Son of God"—directly challenged Jewish monotheistic assumptions without abandoning monotheism. Jesus's claims to be God's Son led to crucifixion charges of blasphemy (John 19:7). The early church's confession that Jesus shares divine nature while maintaining one God developed into Trinitarian doctrine formalized at Nicaea. John's simple confession contains profound theological truth central to Christian orthodoxy.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. What does genuinely confessing 'Jesus is the Son of God' require beyond merely speaking the words?
2. How does your public confession of Christ's deity demonstrate (or fail to demonstrate) that God dwells in you?
3. In what contemporary contexts does confessing Jesus as God's Son require courage and risk, and are you willing to confess Him there?

## Interlinear Text

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ὅς	ἂν	ὁμολογήσῃ	ὅτι	Ἰησοῦς	ἐστίν	ὁ	υἱὸς	τοῦ		
Whosoever	G302	shall confess	that	Jesus	is	G3588	the Son	G3588		
G3739		G3670	G3754	G2424	G2076		G5207			
Θεῷ	ὁ	Θεῷ	ἐν	αὐτὸς	μένει	καὶ	αὐτὸς	ἐν	τῷ	Θεῷ
God	G3588	God	in	he	dwelleth	and	he	in	G3588	God
G2316		G2316	G1722	G846	G3306	G2532	G846	G1722		G2316

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 John 5:5** (References Jesus): Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

**Romans 10:9** (References Jesus): That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

**Matthew 10:32** (Parallel theme): Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

**1 John 4:2** (References Jesus): Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

**1 John 3:24** (Parallel theme): And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

**Philippians 2:11** (References Jesus): And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**1 John 4:12** (References God): No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

**1 John 5:1** (References Jesus): Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

**Luke 12:8** (References God): Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:

**2 John 1:7** (References Jesus): For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

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