



CREEDS AND CONFESSIONS



REFERENCES

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- 3. Confessions and Piety. Christopher J. Gordon. Tabletalkmagazine.com. June 2021, Pages 22 – 24.
- 4. Confessions And The Church Mission of The Church. Sebastian Heck. Tabletalkmagazine.com, June 2021 Pages 28-31.
- 5. Confessions and Church Leadership. David F. Coffin jr. June 2021. Pages 18-19

SELECT SCRIPTURES: I TIMOTHY 1:3-11

- I Timothy 1:3-11. 3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer 4 or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work—which is by faith. 5 The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 6 Some have departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk. 7 They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm. 8 We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. 9 We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, 10 for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine 11 that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

JUDE 1:3

- 3 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.

TITUS 1:9

- 9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

TITUS 2:1

- 2 You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. 2 Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.

DEFINITIONS

- Creeds are generally very short affirmations focusing on the nature of the Trinity or the incarnation of the son.
- A confession is a written, formal statement that acknowledges and gives evidence of religious beliefs.

WHY DO WE HAVE THEM?

- Navigate God's word
- God says it, I believe it, that settles it!
- “Forever O Lord, your Word is settled in heaven”. Psalm 119:89
- God says it, that settles it.
- Stand on the firm for the truth.

CONCEIVED IN ANGUISH

- ‘The banishments, prisons, racks, exiles, tortures and countless other persecutions plainly demonstrate that our desire and conviction is not carnal, for we would lead a far easier life if we did not embrace and maintain this doctrine. But having the fear of God before our eyes, and being in dread of the warning of Christ, who tells us that he shall forsake us before God and his father if we deny him before men, we suffer our backs to be beaten, our tongues cut and our mouths gagged and our whole body to be burnt, for we know that he who would follow Christ must take up his cross and deny himself. **Guido de Bres**

THOMAS CRANMER

- 1st Protestant archbishop of Canterbury from 1533 to 1556.
- Appointed by Henry VIII. Also archbishop during the reign of Edward VI
- Responsible for reforming the liturgy of the Church of England.
- Legacy lives on in the Book of Common Prayer and the 39 Articles of Religion
- Charged with treason by Mary I (aka Bloody Mary) and burned at the stake.



BENEFITS OF CREEDS AND CONFESSIONS

- For the membership
- For our piety and worship
- For the leadership

CONFESSIONS AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

- It keeps the ministers and congregation honest.
- Shows what is required for church membership.
- Allow us to have meaningful unity with other Christians.
- Provides a frame of reference.

CONFESSIONS AND CHURCH PIETY


- Accurate doctrine of God.
- Seamless nature of the Gospel.
- Encourage our love for God in our sanctification

CONFESSIONS AND CHURCH LEADERSHIP

- Facilitate the doctrinal training of church leadership.
- Facilitate the authority and government of church leaders.
- Enforcing church discipline.

SUMMARY

- For the membership:
 - Confessions keep us honest
 - Defines what is required for church membership
 - Provides a frame of reference to evaluate sermons preached on this pulpit
 - Allows us to have meaningful unity with like-minded believers all around the world.
- For our worship:
 - Confessions help us to have an accurate doctrine of God.
 - Confessions capture the central truths of the gospel.
 - Help us to understand the seamless nature of the Christian gospel – how the various doctrines relate to one another.
 - Help us to appreciate what God has done for us and to love him.

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- For the leadership:
 - They facilitate the doctrinal training of candidates for church leadership.
 - Buttress the moral and spiritual authority of the leaders.
 - Useful for enforcing discipline as part of the pastoral care of their church.
 - Our standards: 39 Articles of Religion, C of E, Nicene Creed, Apostolic Creed.



THE END