

**Church Membership For Reformed Believers**  
**Speech #2: The Importance of the Reformed Confessions for Reformed Believers**

**Introduction:** Speech Outline:

1. What are confessions for Reformed believers?
2. What are 13 characteristics of our Confessions?
3. Why are the Reformed Confessions Necessary?
4. What is our calling towards these Confessions?

**“The Importance of the Reformed Confessions for Reformed Believers”**

**1. What are our Confessions?**

- a. “Creeds are formal declarations by the Church in which she expresses what she believes to be the truth of the Word of God.”
- b. By the Creeds, the faithful church of Jesus Christ expresses her faith in the Triune God and His sovereign, particular grace in Jesus Christ crucified alone.
- c. Our Creeds
  - i. The Apostles’ Creed
  - ii. The Nicene Creed
  - iii. The Athanasian Creed
  - iv. The Belgic Confession of Faith
  - v. The Heidelberg Catechism
  - vi. The Canons of Dordrecht
  - vii. The Church Order of Dordrecht

**2. What Are Some Characteristics?**

- a. Personal and Subjective
- b. Provide True Comfort
- c. Instructional
- d. Systematic and Logical
- e. Historical
- f. Not Infallible
- g. Biblical
- h. Antithetical
- i. Authoritative
- j. Undoubted
- k. Central Principle in Christ
- l. Relevant
- m. Clear

**3. Are Confessions Necessary?**

- a. Some say “No!”
  - i. The Creeds divide!
  - ii. The Creeds promote dead orthodoxy.
  - iii. All we need is the Bible! (“No creed, but Christ!”)

- b. We must have confessions.
  - i. Thanks to God for leading us into the truth.
  - ii. Scripturally promoted (II Timothy 1:13)
  - iii. Basis for true unity in the truth
  - iv. Protection from heresy and false doctrine
  - v. Serve the instruction of God's people
  - vi. Promotes growth in the true comfort
  - vii. Guide us into correct knowledge of Scripture
  - viii. A standard to test someone's orthodoxy
  - ix. Promotes proper development of doctrine.

**4. What is Our Calling towards the Confessions?**

- a. Canons, V, art. 15, "The carnal mind is unable to comprehend this doctrine of the perseverance of the saints and the certainty thereof, which God hath most abundantly revealed in His Word, for the glory of His Name and the consolation of pious souls, and which He impresses upon the hearts of the faithful...."
- b. Canons, V, art. 15, "...Satan abhors it; the world ridicules it; the ignorant and hypocrite abuse, and the heretics oppose it; but the spouse of Christ hath always most tenderly loved and constantly defended it, as an inestimable treasure; and God, against Whom neither counsel nor strength can prevail, will dispose her to continue this conduct to the end. Now, to this one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. AMEN."
- c. Proverbs 23:23, "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding."
- d. II Thessalonians 2:15, "Therefore, brethren, hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word or our epistle."
- e. II Timothy 1:13, "Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."
- f. Jude vs 3b, "Beloved,... it was needful for me to... exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."
- g. Sign the Formula of Subscription and thereby promise "diligently to teach and faithfully to defend the aforesaid doctrine... moreover, that we not only reject all errors... but we are disposed to refute and contradict these, and to exert ourselves in keeping the church free from such errors...."
- h. Confession of Faith, Question #2, "Have you resolved by the grace of God to adhere to this doctrine; to reject all heresies repugnant thereto; and to lead a new godly life?"