Creeds + Confessions Part 6

Joshua John / General Adult

Creeds and Confessions

Introduction - Confessions

The ***Bible*** produces the highway that is called orthodoxy. ***Creeds*** are the guardrails along the highway of biblical orthodoxy . ***Confessions*** allow for diversity within the Christian Faith on non-essential issues. The Church councils clarified ancient ***existing*** truths, refining them and reforming them into our doctrine and practice today

From Creeds to Confessions

The ***seven*** ecumenical church councils brought an end to the creedal era. The Great ***Schism*** produced isolation for the East separating it from the currents that affected the West. The Western Church underwent significant institutional and theological transformations that set the stage for ***Protestant*** reform. Luther's Ninety-Five Thesis from 1517 is the universally accepted event that triggered the ***Reformation*** movement. Confessions evolved from immediate polemical responses into systematic theological statements defining Protestant and Catholic ***identities*** .

Creed or Confession - Does it matter?

Distinctions between Creeds and Confessions hinge on their historical timeframe, structural composition, their scope and authority, and their theological ***purpose***. The Western Church has been fundamentally restructured from the Reformation onward. It has branched out from the single lane of Roman Catholicism to include numerable lanes of ***Protestantism***.

Protestant Confessions

Confessions of these differing branches of Protestantism are what ***define*** them. Confessions arise from a fundamental Christian imperative to believe and ***articulate*** what someone believes. Confessions ***strengthen*** Christian communities through instruction and cohesion. Within our fellowship our Confession is called the Sixteen Fundamental ***Truths***, and they are usually contained in every church's founding documents that are affiliated with the Assemblies of God.

Conclusion

If we truly love other believers like Christ loves them, holding to the essentials of the faith, then that love will not be ***bothered*** by the non-essential disagreements we may have. To see if a belief is essential, a good place to start is the ***Apostle's*** creed.