

A Theological Revolution: **Reformed Confessions** Deuteronomy 6:4-9

WHY THE REFORMATION
STILL MATTERS

Five Hundred Years 1517-2017

IS THE
Reformation
over?



The Hypothetical Scenario

If your church was vastly illiterate and biblically as well as theologically anemic, what three concepts would you desire your congregation to know?

Reformation Answer:

1. The Apostle Creed
2. The Lord's Prayer
3. The Ten Commandments



Roman

Catholic

Humanist

- I. Ancient Church Roots
- II. Common Language Bible
- III. Biblical Preaching
- IV. Abandon Private Masses
- V. Laity Education

A Means of Ecclesiastical Harmony 1539

Ad fontes “back to the sources”



Conciliar Movement:
Pope to Councils (*Administrative*)
John Huss

Devotio Moderna:

Spirituality

Thomas À Kempis

(The Imitation of Christ)

Protestant Reformation



Problem: Theological Corruption **Solution:** Word & Theology Focused

- Church Life Should Orbit Around Preaching
- Congregational Singing Should Return To Worship
- Christian Education Should Be A High Priority
- Missions Should Be Occurring
- Social Engagement Should Be The Overflow

ANCIENT CREEDS

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I BELIEVE

*in God the Father almighty, Maker of
heaven and earth;*

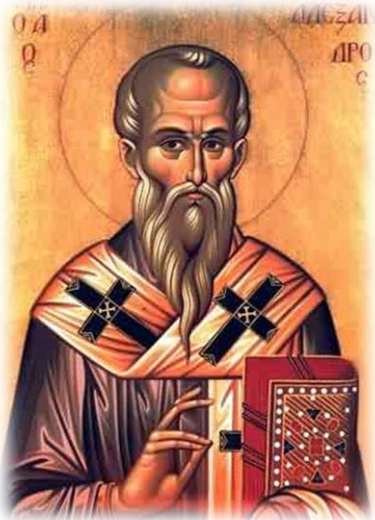
I BELIEVE

*in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.*

I BELIEVE

in the Holy Ghost, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

A M E N



ANCIENT CREEDS

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell.



I BELIEVE

in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

I BELIEVE

*in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under
Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and
buried; He descended into hell; The
third day he rose again from the dead; He
ascended into heaven And sitteth on the
right hand of God the Father almighty;
From thence He shall come to judge the
quick and the dead.*

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*in the Holy Ghost, the holy Christian
Church, the communion of saints; the
forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the
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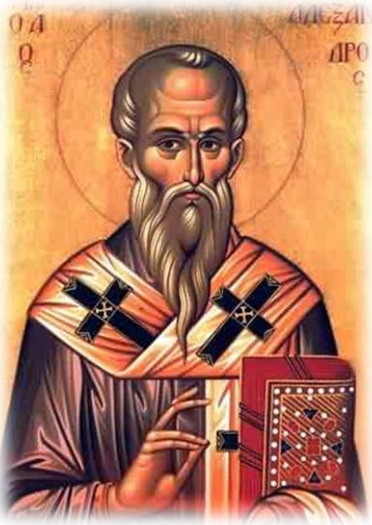
A M E N



ANCIENT CREEDS

THE APOSTLES' CREED

The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.



I BELIEVE

*in God the Father almighty, Maker of
heaven and earth;*

I BELIEVE

*in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under
Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and
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I BELIEVE

*in the Holy Ghost, the holy Christian
Church, the communion of saints; the
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body and the life everlasting.*

A M E N



ANCIENT CREEDS

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.



I BELIEVE

*in God the Father almighty, Maker of
heaven and earth;*

I BELIEVE

*in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.*

I BELIEVE

in the Holy Ghost, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

A M E N

Amen.



“[K]ings are not set as lords and rulers over the word and laws of God; but are, as subjects, to be judged of God by the word, as they that ought to rule and govern all things according to the rule of his word and commandment.”

HEINRICH BULLINGER



The Second Helvetic Confession

CHAPTER XXV (Of Catechizing and of Comforting and Visiting the Sick)

YOUTH TO BE INSTRUCTED IN GODLINESS.

The Lord enjoined his ancient people to exercise the greatest care that young people, even from infancy, be properly instructed. Moreover, he expressly commanded in his law that they should teach them, and that the mysteries of the sacraments should be explained.



The Second Helvetic Confession

CHAPTER XXV (Of Catechizing and of Comforting and Visiting the Sick)

YOUTH TO BE INSTRUCTED IN GODLINESS.

Now since it is well known from the writings of the Evangelists and apostles that God has no less concern for the youth of his new people, when he openly testifies and says: "Let the children come to me; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven" (Mark 10:14), the pastors of the churches act most wisely when they early and carefully catechize the youth, laying the first grounds of faith, and faithfully teaching the rudiments of our religion by expounding the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the doctrine of the sacraments, with other such principles and chief heads of our religion.

The Second Helvetic Confession

CHAPTER XXV (Of Catechizing and of Comforting and Visiting the Sick)

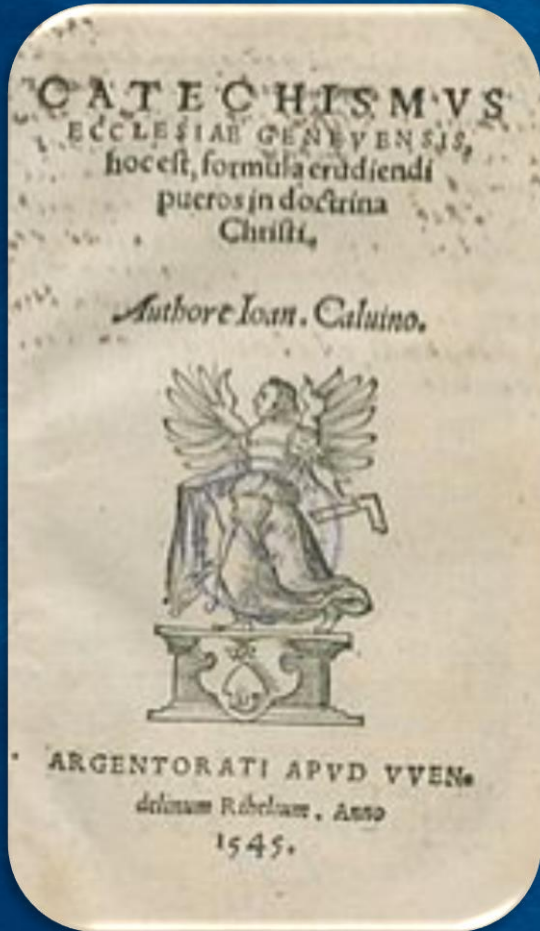
YOUTH TO BE INSTRUCTED IN GODLINESS.

Here let the Church show her faith and diligence in bringing the children to be catechized, desirous and glad to have her children well instructed.

HEINRICH BULLINGER



Catechism of Geneva (1545) Calvin



“Therefore, let all our care, watchfulness, industry, attention press toward this edification, which we know will succeed to the degree that it advances in sober fear of God, sincere piety, and unfeigned holiness of morals.”



JOHN CALVIN

The Nassau *(Dillenburger Synod)* **Confession** *(1578)*

“The pope estranged these two things from the churches, namely: the reading of the holy bible, and proper use of the catechism; and as it were, stole them, which as deep and great consequence to the churches of Christ.”



The Bible Church
OF LITTLE ROCK

Loved By God • Redeemed By Christ • Empowered By the Spirit

Martin Luther

The deplorable, miserable condition which I discovered lately when I, too, was a visitor, has forced and urged me to prepare *[publish]* this Catechism, or Christian doctrine, in this small, plain, simple form. Mercy! Good God! what manifold misery I beheld!



Martin Luther

The common people, especially in the villages, have no knowledge whatever of Christian doctrine, and, alas! many pastors are altogether incapable and incompetent to teach *[so much so, that one is ashamed to speak of it]*.

Nevertheless, all maintain that they are Christians, have been baptized and receive the *[common]* holy Sacraments.



Martin Luther

Yet they *[do not understand and]* cannot *[even]* recite either the Lord's Prayer, or the Creed, or the Ten Commandments; **they live like dumb brutes and irrational hogs;** and yet, now that the Gospel has come, they have nicely learned to abuse all liberty like experts.





Christian Education

Deut. 6:4-9

Deut. 11:13-21

Num. 15:37-41

2 Tim. 3:15

2 Peter 1:12-15



Small Catechism (1551)

1. Do you believe that you are a sinner?

Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.

2. How do you know this?

From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.

3. Are you sorry for your sins?

Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.

4. What have you deserved from God because of your sins?

His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation.

5. Do you hope to be saved?

Yes, that is my hope.

6. In whom then do you trust?

In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.

7. Who is Christ?

The Son of God, true God and man.

8. How many Gods are there?

Only one, but there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

9. What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?

He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

10. Did the Father also die for you?

He did not. The Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is both true God and true man. He died for me and shed his blood for me.

11. How do you know this?

From the holy Gospel, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.





Geneva Catechism

CALVIN



Q27 M. But why do you call God a Creator merely, while it is much more excellent to defend and preserve creatures in their state, than to have once made them?

S. This term does not imply that God created his works at once, and then threw off the care of them. It should rather be understood, that as the world was once made by God, so it is now preserved by him, and that the earth and all other things endure justice as far as they are sustained by his energy, and as it were his hand. Besides, seeing that he has all things under his hand, it follows, that he is the chief ruler and Lord of all.

Therefore, by his being "Creator of heaven and earth," we must understand that it is he alone who by wisdom, goodness, and power, guides the whole course and order of nature; who at once sends rain and drought, hail and other storms, as well as calm, who of his kindness fertilizes the earth, and on the contrary, by withholding his hand, makes it barren from whom come health and disease; to whose power all things are subject, and whose nod they obey.

The Heidelberg Catechism

Question 1. What is thy only comfort in life and death?

Answer: That I with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Saviour **Jesus Christ**; who, with his precious blood, has fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly **Father**, not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must be subservient to my salvation, and therefore, by his **Holy Spirit**, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me sincerely willing and ready, henceforth, to live unto him.

The Heidelberg Catechism

Question 2. How many things are necessary for thee to know, that thou, enjoying this comfort, mayest live and die happily?

Answer: Three; the first, how great my sins and miseries are; the second, how I may be delivered from all my sins and miseries; the third, how I shall express my gratitude to God for such deliverance.

*The Catechism of
Triple Knowledge*

The Heidelberg Catechism

Introduction

Part I: Misery

Part II: Deliverance

God the Father

God the Son

God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Sacraments

Holy Baptism

The Holy Supper of Jesus Christ

Part III: Gratitude

The Ten Commandments

The Lord's Prayer

Questions: 2nd Person

Answers: 1st Person Singular

Tone: Lively & Autobiographical

*The Catechism of
Triple Knowledge*

WESTMINSTER

SHORTER CATECHISM

Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.



WESTMINSTER

SHORTER CATECHISM

Q. 2. What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

A. The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.



WESTMINSTER

SHORTER CATECHISM

Q. 3. What do the Scriptures principally teach?

A. The Scriptures principally teach, what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

The Catechism of
Double Knowledge



WESTMINSTER

SHORTER CATECHISM

Q. 4. What is God?

A. God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.



Christian Education According to Proverbs



TEACH YOUR CHILDREN TO:

1. Fear your God (1:7; 9:10)
2. Guard their mind (3:3; 4:23)
3. Obey their parents (1:8; 2:1; 3:1; 4:1, 10, 20) (3:11; 10:13)
4. Select their companions (1:10; 18:24)
5. Control their body (2:16; 5:1ff; 6:20-24, 32; 7:6-15; 9:13-18)
6. Enjoy the marriage partner (5:15)
7. Watch their words (4:20-24; 5:2; 6:12; 10:11, 13, 14, 18, 19)
8. Pursue their work (6:6; 10:4, 22:29)
9. Manage their money (3:9; 6:1)
10. Love their neighbor (3:27-28, 30-31, 35)

The New City Catechism



I. God, Creation & Fall, Law

(1-20)



II. Christ, Redemption, Grace

(21-35)



III. Spirit, Restoration, Growing in Grace

(36-52)



The New City Catechism



Question 1

What is our only hope in life and death?

That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ.

Romans 14:7–8

For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

Prayer

Christ Our Hope, in life and in death, we cast ourselves on your merciful, fatherly care. You love us because we are your own. We have no good apart from you, and we could ask for no greater gift than to belong to you. Amen.



The New City Catechism



Question 7

What does the law of God require?

Personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience; that we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves. What God forbids should never be done and what God commands should always be done.



The New City Catechism



Question 14

Did God create us unable to keep his law?

No, but because of the disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, all of creation is fallen; we are all born in sin and guilt, corrupt in our nature and unable to keep God's law.



The New City Catechism



Question 25

Does Christ's death mean all our sins can be forgiven?

Yes, because Christ's death on the cross fully paid the penalty for our sin, God graciously imputes Christ's righteousness to us as if it were our own and will remember our sins no more.



The New City Catechism



Question 28

What happens after death to those not united to Christ by faith?

At the day of judgment they will receive the fearful but just sentence of condemnation pronounced against them. They will be cast out from the favorable presence of God, into hell, to be justly and grievously punished, forever.



The New City Catechism



Question 29

How can we be saved?

Only by faith in Jesus Christ and in his substitutionary atoning death on the cross; so even though we are guilty of having disobeyed God and are still inclined to all evil, nevertheless, God, without any merit of our own but only by pure grace, imputes to us the perfect righteousness of Christ when we repent and believe in him.



The New City Catechism



Question 43

What are the sacraments or ordinances?

The sacraments or ordinances given by God and instituted by Christ, namely baptism and the Lord's Supper, are visible signs and seals that we are bound together as a community of faith by his death and resurrection. By our use of them the Holy Spirit more fully declares and seals the promises of the gospel to us.



The New City Catechism



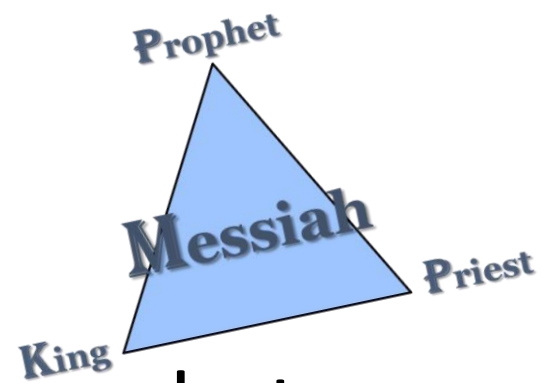
Question 48

What is the church?

God chooses and preserves for himself a community elected for eternal life and united by faith, who love, follow, learn from, and worship God together. God sends out this community to proclaim the gospel and prefigure Christ's kingdom by the quality of their life together and their love for one another.

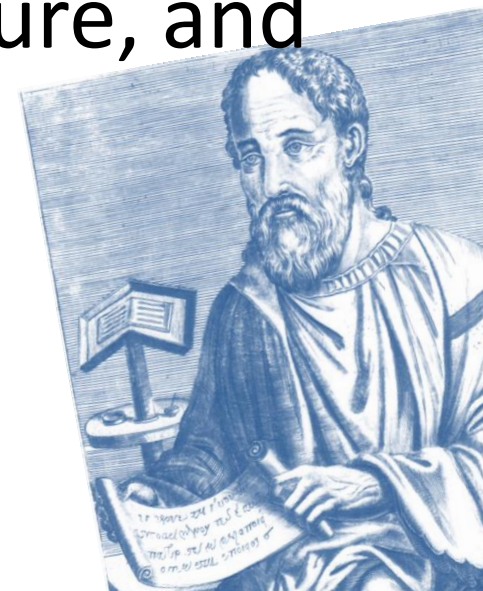


Eusebius



"And we have been told also that certain of the prophets themselves became, *by the act of anointing*, Christs in type, so that all these have reference to the true Christ, the divinely inspired and heavenly Word, who is the **only** high **priest** of all, and the **only King** of every creature, and the Father's **only** supreme **prophet** of prophets."

MUNUS
TRIPLEX



The Word Made Flesh

We confess the mystery and wonder
of God made flesh
and rejoice in our great salvation
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



The Word Made Flesh

With the **Father** and the **Holy Spirit**,
the **Son** created all things,
sustains all things,
and makes all things new.
Truly God,
He became truly man,
two natures in one person.



The Word Made Flesh

He was born of the Virgin Mary
and lived among us.
Crucified, dead, and buried,
He rose on the third day,
ascended to heaven,
and will come again
in glory and judgement.



The Word Made Flesh

For us,

He kept the Law,
atoned for sin,
and satisfied God's wrath.
He took our filthy rags
and gave us
His righteous robe.



The Word Made Flesh

He is our **Prophet**, **Priest**, and **King**,
building His church,
interceding for us,
and reigning over all things.

Jesus Christ is Lord;
we praise His holy Name
forever.

Amen.

