

History and Survey of the Westminster Confession of Faith

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Part 1: History, Context, and Rationale
Class 1: Bible Use and Practice of Creeds and Confessions
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Introduction:

Every Christian and church is creedal. Your creed is
what you believe the Bible to teach.
what emphasis you place on what you believe the Bible to teach.
what priorities your emphases direct you to make.
Creeds and confessions help to define and clarify one's faith.
Creeds and confessions help one to remain biblical.
Personal testimony is not enough. (1 Pet. 3:15)

Some of the Bible's own Summaries and Confessions

Old Testament

Deuteronomy 6
The Psalms
The Prophecies

New Testament

1 Cor. 12:3 - "Jesus is Lord"
a statement of one's faith - Lk. 5:8; Jn. 20:28
a basis for evangelism - Rom. 10:9
Phil. 2:6-11 - a more developed summary
similar pattern of instruction as Dt. 6:
what you are to know
what you are to do
what you are to teach your children
what the church is given to keep
what you are to hope & rejoice in
1 Tim. 3:14-16
a larger scope and grasp of what Christ has accomplished
a guide as to the believer's conduct
a confession that the deity of Christ is a mystery
2 Tim. 2:8-13
a call to remember - "do not forget"
a saying that is trustworthy
"we" unison confession of faith within the church
"if" not conditional of salvation but consequential ("if/then")
Anywhere the OT is quoted in the NT - 1 Pet. 2:4-12
The book of Revelation
4:8; 5:9-10; 7:15-17; 11:17-18; 15:3-4; 16:5-7; 19:1-7
summaries of redemptive accomplishment
context: eternal worship of the ever-present Lord