

History and Survey of the Westminster Confession of Faith

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Part 1: History, Context, and Rationale

Class 12: The Procedures & Characters of the Divines

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6/12/1643 Parliament called for an assembly of Divines:

'An Ordinance of the Lords and Commons in Parliament, for the calling of an Assembly of learned and godly Divines, and others, to be consulted with by the Parliament, for the settling of the Government and Liturgy of the Church of England, and for vindicating and clearing of the Doctrine of the said Church from false aspersions and interpretations.'

6/22/1643 Charles I forbid the meeting with threats

7/1/1643 The assembly convened at Westminster Abbey.

10 from the House of Lords

20 from the House of Commons

121 Divines or ministers, later augmented by 21 more

II. The Make-Up of the Assembly

English Presbyterians

Episcopalians

Congregationalists

Erastians

Scottish Presbyterians

The Assembly worked from a Calvinistic system of thought:

- they regarded the Bible as the authoritative Word of God
- they were committed to the doctrine of predestination
- they embraced covenantal theology

III. The Assignment from Parliament

Functioning without a standing Church government

they were first charged with revising the Thirty-Nine Articles.

That later shifted to the creation of a new Confession of Faith
along with a Directory for Worship and catechisms

IV. Key Change

After 10 weeks of work, the Solemn League and Covenant was signed and approved by the Parliaments of both Scotland and England, uniting the kingdoms against King Charles I.

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Preaching God's Sovereign Grace to a World of Need

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