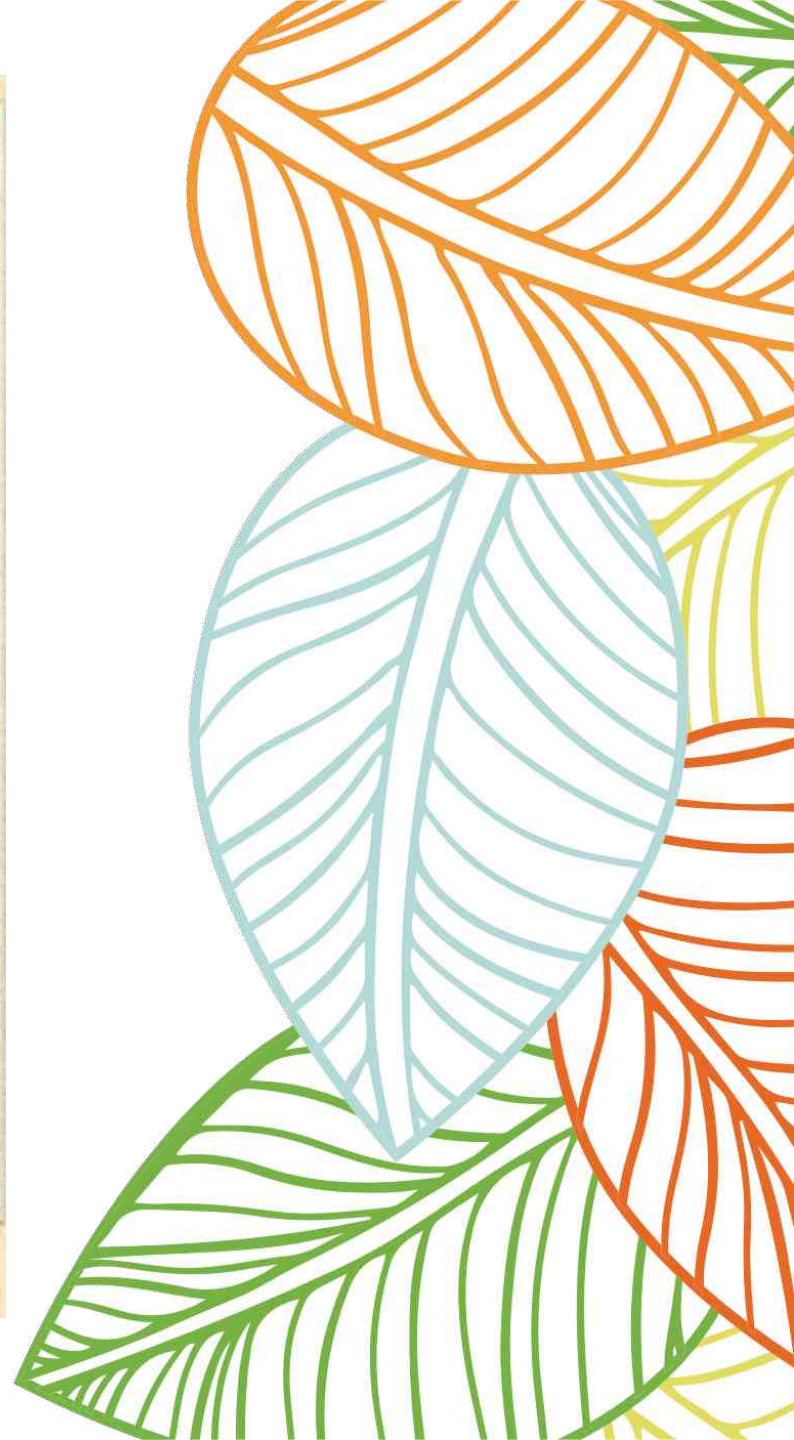
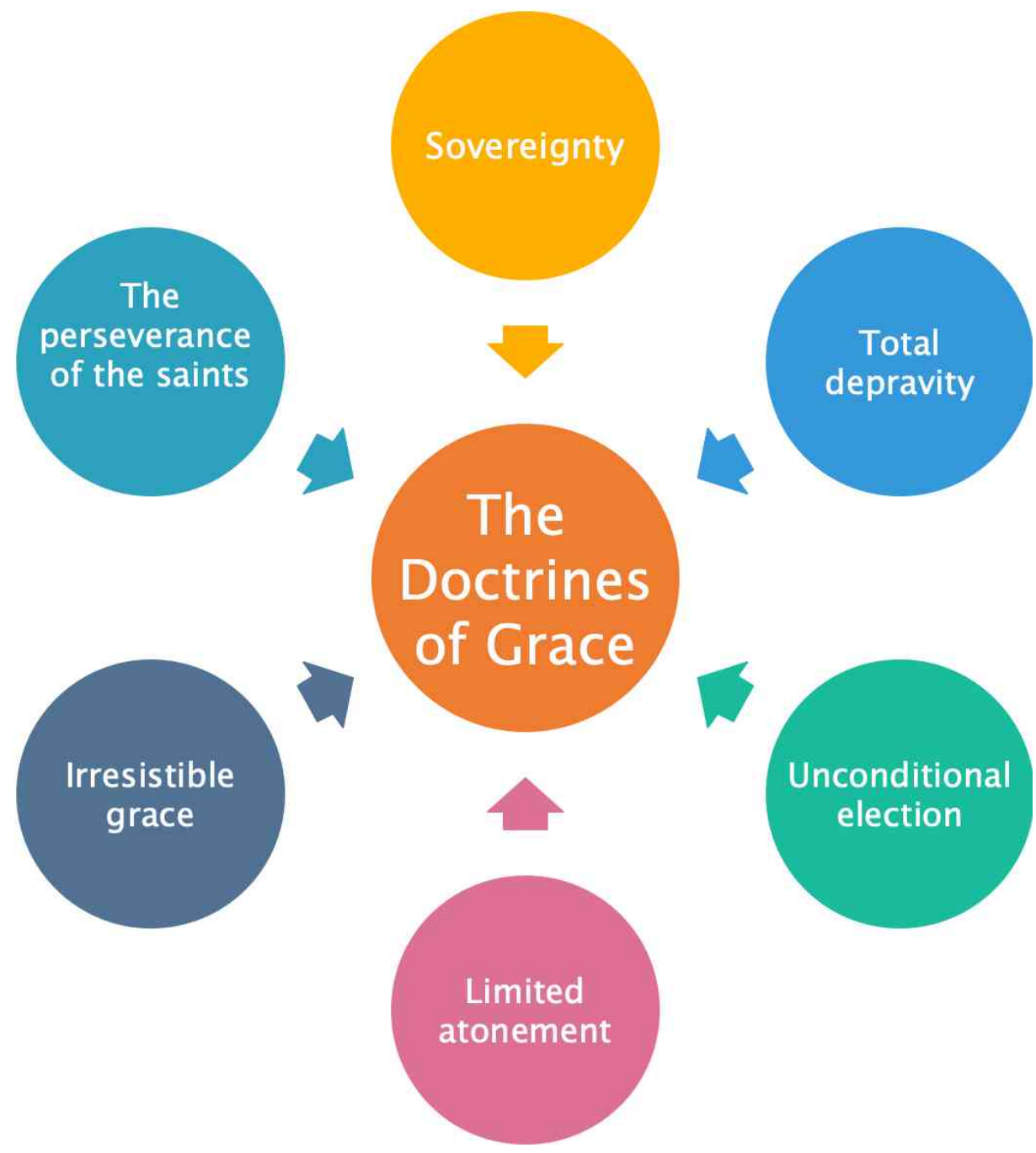


Jimmy meets Mr. Ed.



Deuteronomy 6:4-6, ⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

⁶ "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.





The Essence of the Calvinistic Life

- T – Total depravity
- U – Unconditional election
- L – Limited atonement
- I – Irresistible grace
- P – Perseverance of the saints

- Radical depravity
- Unconditional election
- Particular redemption
- Efficacious grace
- Persevering grace

- G – Grace
- O – Obligatory grace
- S – Sovereign grace
- P – Provision-making grace
- E – Effectual grace
- L – Lasting grace

- S – Sovereignty of God
- i, – Inability of Man
- J – Justification by Faith Alone
- e – Election by Grace
- s – Sacrifice of Christ
- u – Unity and Universality of the Church
- s – Security of the Believer

- R – Radical depravity
- O – Overcoming grace
- S – Sovereign election
- E – Eternal life
- S – Singular redemption



The Essence of the Calvinistic Life

- Trust in the sovereignty of God.
- The experience of the power of God's grace to save hopeless and helpless sinners.
- An overwhelming sense of being loved by a Savior who has died specifically and successfully for one's sins.
- The discovery of a grace that has set one free to trust, serve, and love Christ while yet not destroying one's will.
- The quiet confidence and poise engendered by knowing that God has pledged Himself to persevere with His people "till all the ransomed church of God is saved to sin no more."

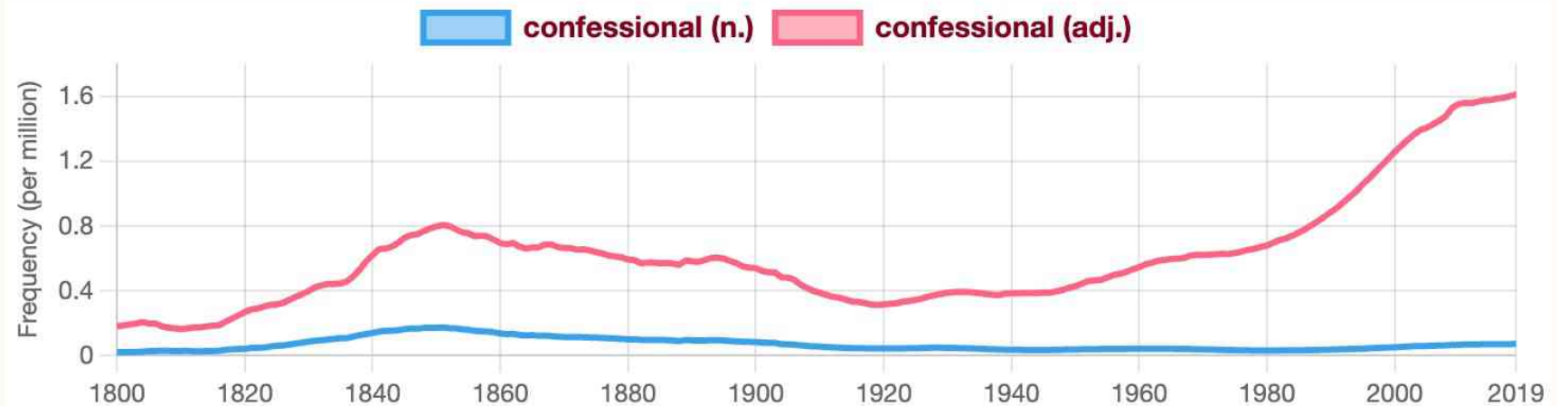
Confessionalism

confessional (adj.)

"pertaining to confession," mid-15c., from Medieval Latin *confessionalis*, from past-participle stem of *confiteri* "to acknowledge" (see **confess**).

also from **mid-15c.**

Trends of *confessional*



adapted from books.google.com/ngrams/. Ngrams are probably unreliable.

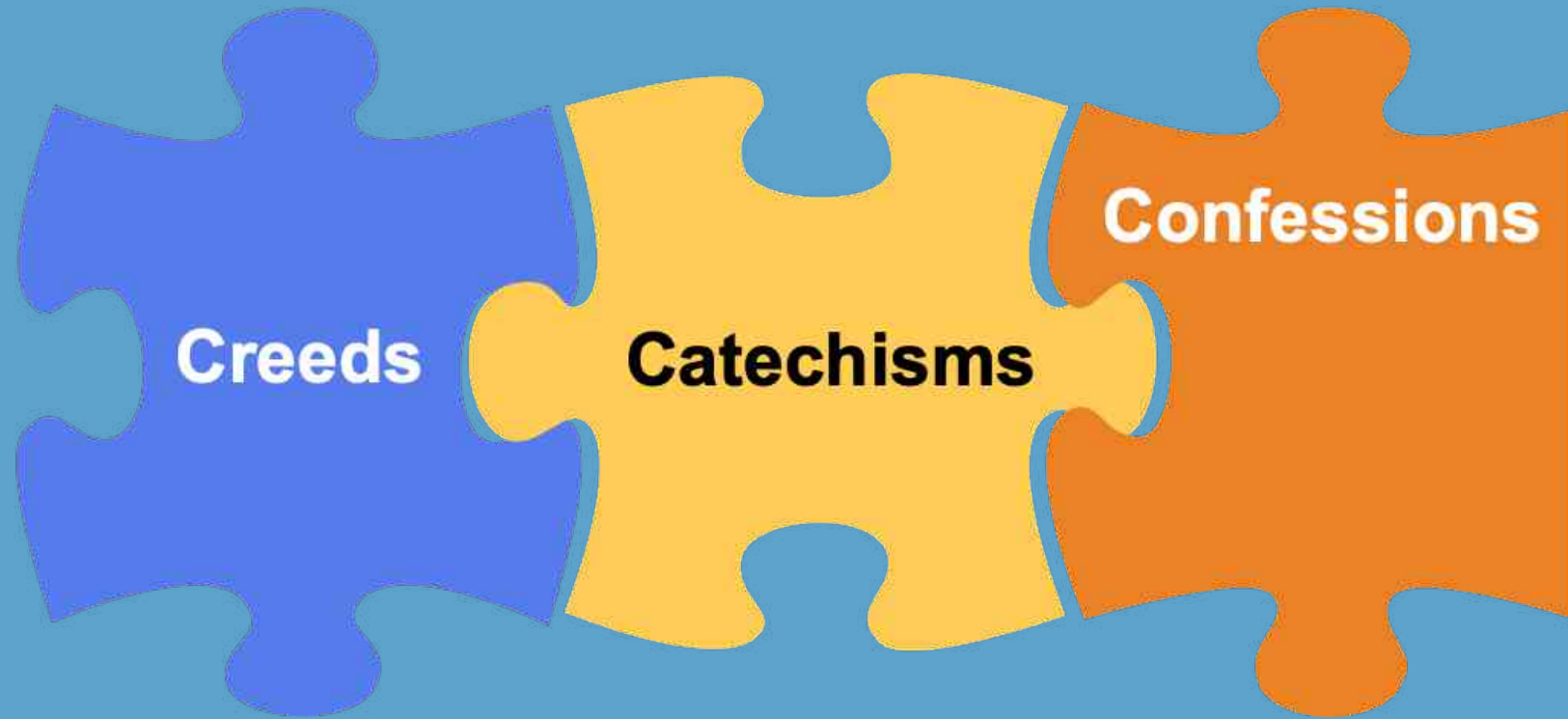
Confessionalism

Confess, Confession. The biblical concepts expressed by the words “confess” and “confession” have in common the idea of an acknowledgment of something.



- Jn 1:20** He **confessed**, and did not deny, but **confessed**, “I am not the Christ.”
- Jn 9:22** His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone **confessed** that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.
- Jn 12:42** Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not **confess** Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue;
- Ac 23:8** For Sadducees say that there is no resurrection— and no angel or spirit; but the Pharisees **confess** both.
- Ac 24:14** But this I **confess** to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets.
- Ro 10:9** that if you **confess** with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
- Ro 10:10** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth **confession** is made unto salvation.
- 1 Ti 6:12** Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have **confessed** the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Confessional Documents



Confessional has to do with a written confessions of faith.

The documents summarize complex theological concepts in concise language.

Confessions



Why do we need a Confession?

We do not always remember as fully and as quickly as we should from our study of Scripture.

If we were not sinners, we would all read and believe God's Word exactly as God intended. We would not disagree about anything in Scripture. There would be no divisions in the church. There would be no false teachers, no heresy, and no need for church discipline.

We have confessions to unite us on the foundational beliefs of the one and only true faith.

It connects us to the rich heritage of the Christian faith.

It is biblical, historical, and evangelical.



Why do we need a Confession?

Creeds and Confessions, therefore, have been found necessary in all ages and branches of the Church, and, when not abused, have been useful for the following purposes:

- **To mark, disseminate and preserve the attainments made in the knowledge of Christian truth by any branch of the Church in any crisis of its development.**
- **To discriminate the truth from the glosses of false teachers, and to present it in its integrity and due proportions.**
- **To act as the basis of ecclesiastical fellowship among those so nearly agreed as to be able to labor together in harmony.**
- **To be used as instruments in the great work of popular instruction.**



Confessional Statements

Paul's Trustworthy Sayings

1 Timothy 1:15, This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world **to save sinners**, of whom I am chief.

This idea is prominent in all four of the Gospels:

Matthew 9:13, But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." See Mk 2:17; Lu 5:32, 19:10;

John 12:46-47, ⁴⁶ I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. ⁴⁷ And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.



Confessional Statements

Paul's Trustworthy Sayings

1 Timothy 3:1, This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.

Paul was generally concerned to establish order in the churches that he pastored.

Titus 1:5, For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—



Confessional Statements

Paul's Trustworthy Sayings

1 Timothy 4:7-9, ⁷ But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. ⁸ For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. ⁹ This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.

This testimony finds precedent in Christ's teaching.

Luke 18:29-30, ²⁹ So He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, ³⁰ who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life."



Confessional Statements

Biblical confessions run in two directions.

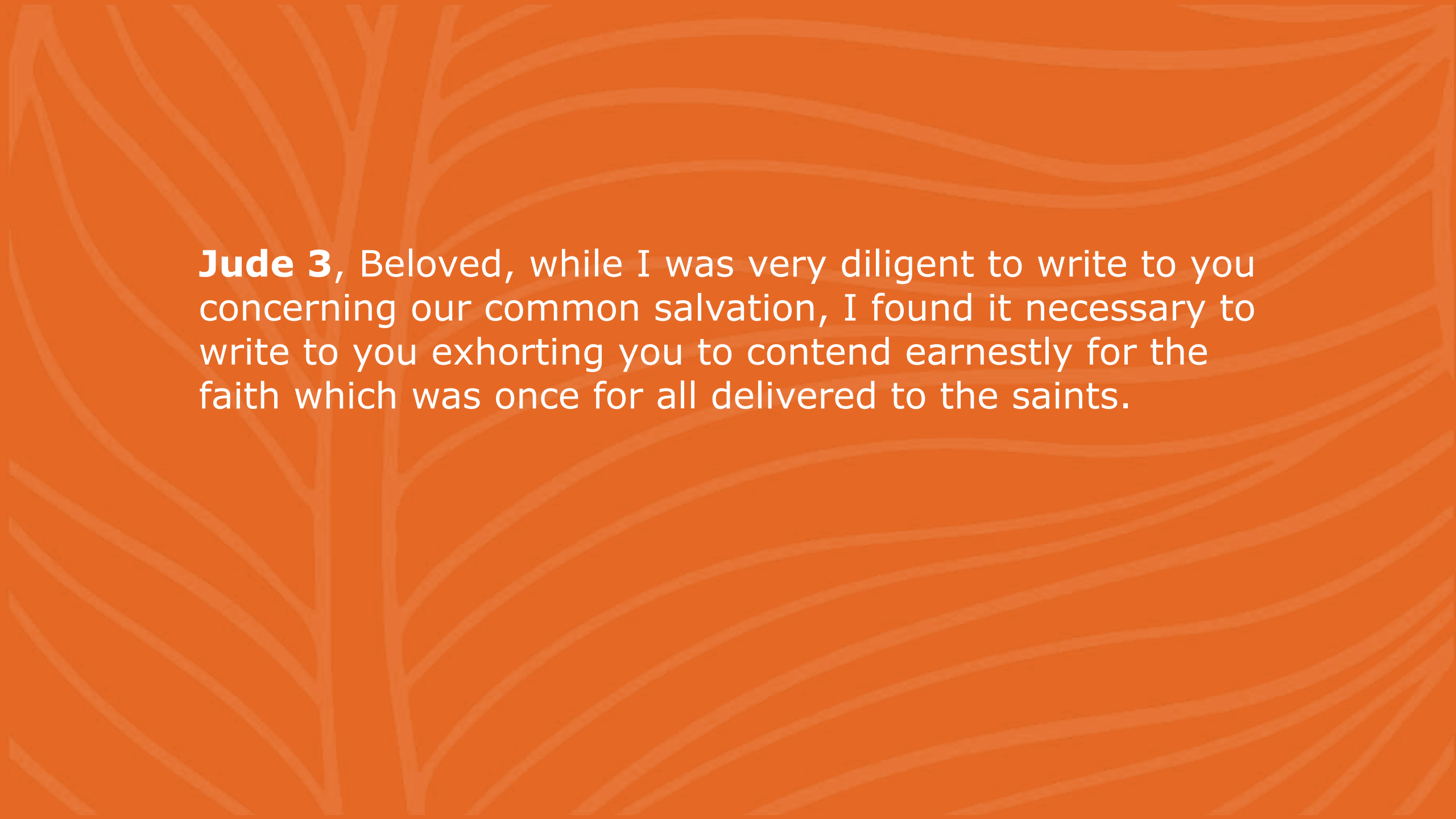
- They look back at God's past redemptive activity and revelation, erecting ebenezers to remind the church of what he has done.
- And they lean forward into the future, as parents are to educate their children in the meaning of the Passover.



1689 Baptist Confession of Faith - Introduction

"...wherein our faith and doctrine are the same with theirs; and this we did the more abundantly to manifest our consent with both in all the fundamental articles of the Christian religion, as also with many others whose orthodox Confessions have been published to the world on the behalf of the Protestant in diverse nations and cities. And also to convince all that we have no itch to clog religion with new words, but do readily acquiesce in that form of sound words which hath been, in consent with the Holy Scriptures, used by others before us; hereby declaring, before God, angels, and men, our hearty agreement with them in that wholesome Protestant doctrine which, with so clear evidence of Scriptures, they have asserted. Some things, indeed, are in some places added, some terms omitted, and some few changed; but these alterations are of that nature as that we need not doubt any charge or suspicion of unsoundness in the faith from any of our brethren upon the account of them."





Jude 3, Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.