

DAILY ORAL THEOLOGY

Confession (Belgic)

Confession n.

1. The word “creed” (Latin, *credo*) means “I believe,” and reflects the biblical emphasis on salvation by faith. A confession is similar to a creed. It is a biblical term (*homologia*) and means to affirm a statement which has been previously made.
2. The biblical warrant for confession can be found in numerous places in Scripture, but the text that speaks directly to confession is 2 Timothy 1:13-14, where Paul exhorts the evangelist to “hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Jesus Christ. That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.”

Belgic Confession of Faith n.

1. The Belgic Confession was written in 1561 by Guido de Brès, a citizen and pastor in the French speaking area of what is known today as Belgium. Guido de Brès used the French Confession of 1559, which was written mostly by John Calvin, as the foundation and outline for his own confession. A copy was sent to the Spanish king in which it was bravely declared that these believers were ready to obey the government in all lawful things, although they would “offer their backs to stripes, their tongues to knives, their mouths to gags, and their whole bodies to fire, rather than deny the truth of God’s Word.” Though the confession failed to stem the tide of persecution, it was instrumental in helping thousands understand the Reformed faith. Guido de Brès was eventually captured and he sealed his confession with martyr’s blood in 1567. His work has endured as an expression of the faith of a people enduring suffering for Christ’s sake, and will continue to serve as a means of instruction in the Reformed faith.

–*RCUS Three Forms of Unity*

2. There are seven doctrinal divisions within the Belgic Confession:

- I. Doctrine of Scripture** Art. 1-7
- II. Doctrine of God** Art. 8-13
- III. Doctrine of Man** Art. 14-15
- IV. Doctrine of Christ** Art. 16-21
- V. Doctrine of Salvation** Art. 22-26
- VI. Doctrine of the Church** Art. 27-36
- VII. Doctrine of Last Things** Art. 37

DAILY ORAL THEOLOGY

- I. **Doctrine of Scripture** Art. 1-7
 - a. Nature and Attributes of God (1)
 - b. Two-fold knowledge of God (2)
 - c. Revelation of God in the Scriptures (3-7)

BELGIC *CONFESSIO*



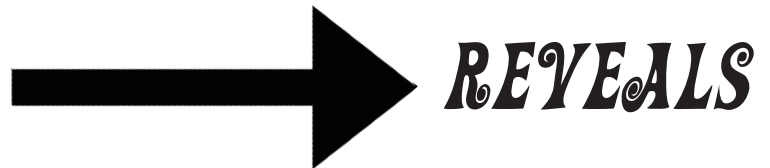
REVEALS

- II. **Doctrine of God** Art. 8-13
 - a. Trinity (8-11)
 - b. Revelation of God in Creation (12-13)

AND

- III. **Doctrine of Man** Art. 14-15
 - a. Creation and Fall (14)
 - b. Original Sin (15)

- IV. **Doctrine of Christ** Art. 16-21
 - a. Plan of Redemption (16)
 - b. Promise of Redemption (17)
 - c. Presence of Redeemer (18-21)



WHAT HE DID

WHAT HE DOES

- V. **Doctrine of Salvation** Art. 22-26
 - a. Justification (22-23)
 - b. Sanctification (24-26)

- VI. **Doctrine of the Church** Art. 27-36
 - a. Nature of the Church (27)
 - b. Communion of the Saints (28)
 - c. Marks (29)
 - d. Government (30-32)
 - e. Sacraments (33-35)
 - f. Magistrate (36)

WHAT HE WILL DO

- VII. **Doctrine of Last Things** Art. 37