

## Belgic Confession of Faith (1561)

### Article VII

#### The Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures to Be the Only Rule of Faith

**Leader:** We believe that those Holy Scriptures fully contain the will of God, and that whatsoever man ought to believe unto salvation is sufficiently taught therein. For since the whole manner of worship which God requires of us is written in them at large, it is unlawful for any one, though an apostle, to teach otherwise than we are now taught in the Holy Scriptures: *nay, though it were an angel from heaven,*<sup>1</sup> as the apostle Paul says. For since it is forbidden to *add unto or take away anything from the Word of God,*<sup>2</sup> it does thereby evidently appear that the doctrine thereof is most perfect and complete in all respects.

**People:** **Neither may we consider any writings of men, however holy these men may have been, of equal value with those divine Scriptures, nor ought we to consider custom, or the great multitude, or antiquity, or succession of times and persons, or councils, decrees or statutes, as of equal value with the truth of God, since the truth is above all; for all men are of themselves liars, and more vain than vanity itself.**<sup>3</sup> Therefore we reject with all our hearts whatsoever does not agree with this infallible rule, as the apostles have taught us, saying, Prove the spirits, whether they are of God. Likewise: *If any one cometh unto you, and bringeth not this teaching, receive him not into your house.*<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Gal. 1:8-9

<sup>2</sup> Deut. 12:32; Prov. 30:5-6; Rev. 22:18-19

<sup>3</sup> Psalm 62:9; Matt. 15:3; Mark 7:7; 1 Cor. 2:4; 2 Tim. 4:3-4

<sup>4</sup> 2 John 1:10