

# BELGIC CONFESSION OF FAITH

## REVIEW:

- OTHER NAMES: *“The Netherlands Confession,”* and *“The Confession of Faith.”*
- HISTORY: Written by Guido de Bres in 1561. Adopted by Synod of Dordt in 1618-1619.
- CHARACTER: Most complete summary of Bible. More systematic than Heidelberg Catechism. Broader in scope than the Canons of Dordt.

# BELGIC CONFESSION OF FAITH

- **OVERVIEW:**
  - Theology — Articles 1-11
  - Anthropology — Articles 12-17
  - Christology — Articles 18-21
  - Soteriology — Articles 22-26
  - Ecclesiology — Articles 27-36
  - Eschatology — Article 37
- **ARTICLES 1-11**
  - 1-2 – Introductory
  - 3-7 – Doctrine of Scripture
  - 8-11 – Doctrine of God

# **BELGIC CONFESSION OF FAITH**

## **ARTICLE #1**

### **THAT THERE IS ONE ONLY GOD**

**[Rev. D. Kleyn, PRCA Missionary]**

## a. Why Is It Significant That The Belgic Confession Begins With This Article Concerning God?

- A “theocentric” (God centered) approach.
  - The Bible is theocentric (not anthropocentric).
  - A summary of the truth must be theocentric.
- This sets the tone for (approach of) the whole of the Belgic Confession.
- We must always be theocentric. By means of Article 1 of the Belgic Confession, we confess that we are.

**b. What Is The Significance Of The Words,  
*“believe with the heart,  
and confess with the mouth”* ?**

- **These opening words of the B.C. indicate that this creed is a personal confession.**
- **These words are from Romans 10:9-10. A confession is necessary for salvation.**
- **The content of the Belgic Confession is a matter of salvation.**
  - **It is the truth of the Word of God (the Bible).**
  - **It must be believed & confessed for salvation.**

## c. What Do The Words “We all” Refer To?

- **INCLUSIVE Language**
  - Includes all true believers from every age of world history, and every nation of the world.
  - Note: This reflects the (1) “catholicity” and (2) “unity” & (3) “apostolicity” of the church.
- **EXCLUSIVE Language**
  - Excludes all unbelievers/unsaved.
  - Excludes all who reject these truths.

## d. What Does It Mean That God Is “simple” ?

- God is not complex.
  - God is not made up of parts.
  - God cannot be divided.
  - Deuteronomy 6:4, 1 Timothy 2:5.
- There is perfect harmony in God.
  - All God’s attributes are one in Him. There is no contradiction between any of His attributes.
  - 1 John 1:5 – *“God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.”*

## e. List Each Of The Attributes Of God That Are Mentioned In This Article, and Explain What They Mean.

- ETERNAL: God has no limits with regard to time.
- INCOMPREHENSIBLE: We cannot fully know Him.
- INVISIBLE: We cannot see God. He is Spirit!
- IMMUTABLE: God never changes. Doesn't need to.
- INFINITE: without limits with regard to time & space.
- ALMIGHTY: God has all power. Able to do as He wills.
- WISE: God is able to make everything serve His glory.
- JUST: All He does is in harmony with His being & will.
- GOOD: God is perfect in Himself, and in all He does.

## f. How Can The Attributes Of God Be Divided – Into What Two Groups?

### ▪ INCOMMUNICABLE Attributes of God

- These are unique to God. He doesn't communicate (share/give) these to anyone.
- Those listed in Art. #1: eternal, incomprehensible, invisible, immutable, infinite.

### ▪ COMMUNICABLE Attributes of God

- God communicates (shares) these with His people.
- He does this in saving us – restores His image in us.
- Those listed in Art. #1: mighty, wise, just, good.

# **BELGIC CONFESSION OF FAITH**

## **ARTICLE #2**

### **BY WHAT MEANS GOD IS MADE KNOWN TO US**

[Rev. D. Kleyn, PRCA Missionary]

## a. In What Two Ways Does God Make Himself Known To Us?

### · By Means Of His WORKS

- By His creation, preservation, and government of the universe. Psalm 19:1-3. Romans 1:20.
- “General Revelation” – because it is a revelation made to all mankind.

### · By Means Of His WORD

- God reveals Himself more clearly/fully through the Bible. All we need to know for salvation. Ps. 19:8.
- “Special Revelation” – a revelation made to the elect. They are given a saving knowledge of God.

## **b. Can Someone Be Led To Salvation Simply Through The Revelation Of God In Creation? Why Or Why Not?**

- **No – (1) because all men are totally depraved.**
  - **No one seeks God. No one desires to see or know what God reveals about Himself in creation.**
  - **No one is able to see God accurately in creation – we corrupt the revelation in creation (Romans 1:20ff).**
- **No – (2) because the creation itself is cursed.**
  - **Man's fall into sin brought the curse of God on the creation, too. Romans 8:20-22.**
  - **The creation does not reveal God as fully and as clearly as it did before man fell into sin.**

## c. What Is The Purpose Of The Revelation Of God In Creation For The Unbeliever?

- It “convinces men” that God exists and must be worshiped and served. Romans 1:20.
- It “leaves them without excuse,” for they do not confess God and serve Him. Romans 1:20.
- It adds to their condemnation, because of what they do with that revelation. Romans 1:21-25.

## **d. What Is The Purpose Of The Revelation Of God In Creation For The Believer?**

- **God makes Himself known to His people by means of His works (creation, providence, etc.).**
- **God works in His people by His Spirit so that they:**
  - **Are interested in and take notice of this revelation of God.**
  - **Believe this revelation of God (His power and divinity).**
  - **Take heed of this revelation (worship and serve God).**
- **God's revelation in creation doesn't save – it confirms and strengthens the faith we already have.**
  - **We understand God's revelation by means of the Bible.**
  - **The revelation in creation confirms what we already believe and know to be true from the Bible.**

## e. What Is The Relationship Between The Revelation Of God In Creation And The Revelation Of God In Scripture

- The revelation in Scripture is clearer than in creation, and is used by God for our salvation.
  - *"... necessary for us to know in this life, to ... our salvation"*
  - God reveals Himself in Jesus Christ as our Savior/Redeemer.
  - By means of His Word and Spirit, God works faith and saves.
- Only one who is saved can properly see and believe the revelation of God in the creation.
  - Calvin said we put on the "spectacles of Scripture." Using the Bible, we see God's hand in everything.
  - To those who have faith, the revelation of God in His works is also a revelation of Jesus Christ. We see Christ!
  - NB: We do not (may not) use creation to explain the Bible, but must use the Bible to explain creation.

# BELGIC CONFESSION OF FAITH

## ARTICLE #3

### THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD

[Rev. D. Kleyn, PRCA Missionary]

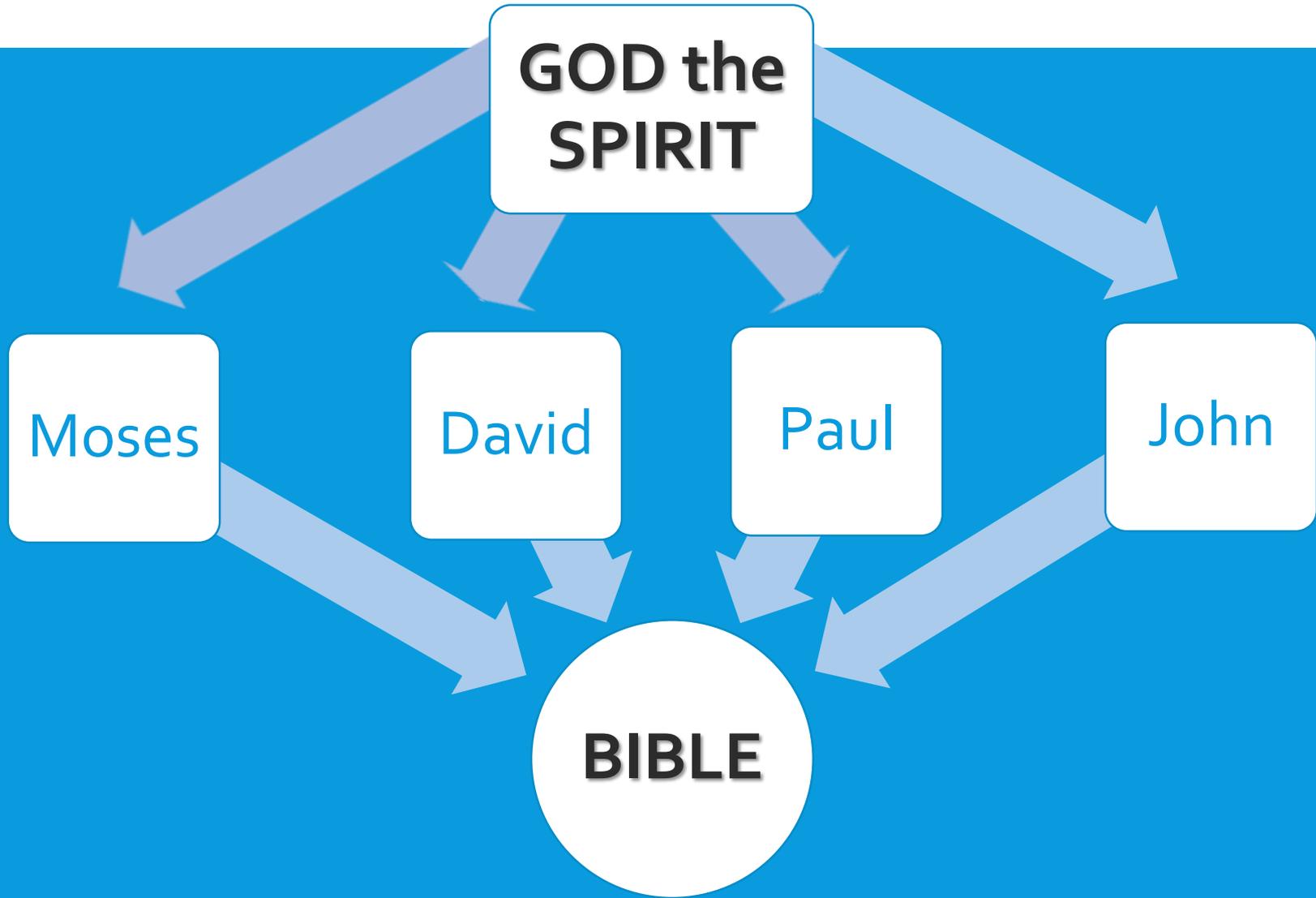
## a. Why Is It Important That the Scripture Is Treated Near The Beginning Of *The Belgic Confession*?

- **The Doctrine of Scripture is foundational.**
  - The Bible is the source of and the standard for all the truth.
  - The Bible is the only rule of our faith (what we believe) and our life (how we live).
- In order to study doctrine/truth (as we do in the *Belgic Confession*), we need to establish from the very outset that the Bible is the infallibly inspired Word of God.

## **b. Who Wrote The Bible?**

- **The Bible has ONE AUTHOR**
  - God Himself is the Author.
  - Through the Holy Spirit.
  - II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:20-21.
- **Note the Following:**
  - The Bible does not contain the Word of God AND the words of men.
  - We may not say: "God's Word is IN the Bible!", but we must say: "The Bible IS God's Word!"

# c. May we call the men God used “AUTHORS”?



## d. What is Implied about the Bible by the Fact that God is its Author?

- 1. The Bible is INFALLIBLE and INERRANT – incapable of errors, and has no errors.**
- 2. The Bible is a UNITY – one Word of God, and has no contradictions in it.**
- 3. The Bible has AUTHORITY – it is the only rule for our faith and life/practice.**

## e. Why Did God See to it that the Bible Was Written Down?

- Article 3 – *“... God, from a special care which He has for us and our salvation, commanded His servants, the prophets and apostles, to commit His revealed Word to writing; ...”*
- II Timothy 3:15 – *“... the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”*
- John 5:39 – *“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”*
- John 20:31 – *“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”*

# **BELGIC CONFESSION OF FAITH**

## **ARTICLE #4**

### **CANONICAL BOOKS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES**

**[Rev. D. Kleyn, PRCA Missionary]**

## a. Why Do We Refer To The Bible As A "HOLY" Book?

- Something that is "holy" is (1) separated from sin and (2) consecrated to God.
- The Bible is "holy" because the Author is holy.
  - The Bible is without sin – infallible and inerrant.
  - The Bible is consecrated to God – it reveals God, all that it contains is for the goal of the glory of God.
- This has implications for how we view and handle the Bible and everything in it.

## b. What Do We Mean By The Expression, "CANONICAL BOOKS"?

- These are the books which the church of Christ has officially recognized as divinely inspired and thus the church has approved of these books as belonging to the Scriptures.
- "Canon" = a measuring rod, a norm, a standard.
  - The canon of Scripture is that collection of books that is divinely inspired and for that reason are authoritative and normative for our faith and life.
  - Article 4 – the canonical books are those "*against which nothing can be alleged.*"

## **c. Which Book is Not Included in the List of O.T. Books? Explanation For This?**

- The book of LAMENTATIONS is not mentioned.**
- This is included with the book of JEREMIAH.**

## d. What Different Types of Writings are in the Bible? Give some Examples of Each.

- HISTORY: Genesis, Judges, Kings, Mark, Acts.
- POETRY: Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Solomon.
- PROPHECY: Isaiah, Daniel, Malachi, Revelation.
- EPISTLES: Romans, Ephesians, Hebrews, Jude.

## **e. Why are some O.T. Prophets called “Great Prophets,” and others called “Lesser Prophets”?**

- Note: Also sometimes distinguished as “Major” prophets and “Minor” prophets.**
- Not a reference to their importance. All books of the Bible are equally important.**
- A reference to the size of these books – namely, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel.**

## f. What Is The Relationship Between The “Two Books” (O.T. & N.T.) of the Bible?

- Not two separate dispensations.
  - Not Israel vs. Church (2 different peoples of God).
  - Not Law vs. Grace (2 different ways of salvation).
- Unity between them.
  - One people of God in both the OT and NT – Israel and the Church are one.
  - Same Gospel, same Promises, same Savior, same Way of Salvation, etc.
- Relationship of Prophecy & Fulfilment. *“The New is in the Old concealed, and the Old is in the New revealed!”*

# BELGIC CONFESSION OF FAITH

## ARTICLE #5

FROM WHENCE THE HOLY SCRIPTURES  
DERIVE THEIR DIGNITY AND AUTHORITY

[Rev. D. Kleyn, PRCA Missionary]

## a. What Three Reasons Are Given For Accepting The Books Listed In Article 4 As Belonging To The Bible?

1. *“Because the church receives and approves them as such”* (i.e., “as holy and canonical”).
2. *“Because the Holy Ghost witnesses in our hearts that they are from God”* – i.e., a subjective reason.
3. Because *“they carry the evidence in themselves”* that they are from God – i.e., an objective reason.

## **b. What Does This Imply Concerning How We View The Books Of The Bible?**

- **We receive all these books as holy and canonical.**
  - **These books correctly belong to the canon – none more, none less.**
  - **These books are indeed the Word of God Himself.**
- **We believe without any doubt all things contained in these books of the Bible.**

## c. What Does This Imply Concerning How We Use The Books Of The Bible?

- Use them for the **REGULATION** of our faith.
  - The rule for our lives; telling us how to live.
- Use them for the **FOUNDATION** of our faith.
  - The rule for what we believe.
  - The Bible is the foundation.
- Use them for the **CONFIRMATION** of our faith.
  - The means of assurance, through the Spirit applying the gospel to our hearts.

## **d. Mention Some Ways In Which The Scriptures Themselves Give Evidence That They Are From God.**

- **The fulfilment of the prophecies in Scripture.**
- **The mighty works of God recorded in the Bible – e.g., creation, providence, salvation.**
- **What the Bible reveals concerning God.**
  - **That He is Triune (not true of any other god).**
  - **That He is gracious (cf. the Gospel).**
- **That there are no errors or contradictions in the Scriptures.**

e. *"We believe the Bible is God's Word because the Bible itself says so."*  
Is it proper to say this?

- Some argue this is incorrect.
  - Will say it is a circular argument.
  - Conclude it is therefore invalid.
- But it is correct to say this.
  - Compare to any other book you read. Or compare to a letter you receive.
  - Crucial is our faith/belief, which is worked in us by the Holy Spirit.

## f. What Should Your Starting Point Be In A Discussion With Anyone Concerning What The Bible Teaches?

- Necessary to agree that the Bible is in fact the Word of God! It is inspired, infallible, inerrant. It is the only rule for faith and for life.

“We waste the time of ourselves and others, when we try to convince the doubter of the Bible’s reliability by all kinds of evidences, proofs and demonstrations.”

[P. Y. De Jong, *The Church’s Witness To The World*]

# **BELGIC CONFESSION OF FAITH**

## **ARTICLE #6**

### **DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CANONICAL AND APOCRYPHAL BOOKS**

**[Rev. D. Kleyn, PRCA Missionary]**

# a. What Is Meant By The “Apocryphal” Books?

- **APOCRYPHAL**

- Means “hidden, secret, of uncertain origin and authority, unlikely to be true.”

- **Apocryphal Books**

- The apocryphal books are not inspired, thus no guarantee that their contents are true.

- Therefore the apocryphal books do not belong to the canon of Scripture.

- And, they are books that should be excluded from public use in the church.

## **b. What Are The Basic Differences Between The Canonical Books And The Apocryphal Books?**

### **· AUTHORSHIP**

- The Canonical Books are divinely inspired.**
- The Apocryphal Books were simply written by men.**

### **· FALLIBILITY**

- The Canonical Books are infallible and inerrant.**
- The Apocryphal Books are fallible (capable of error) and errant (contain errors).**

### **· AUTHORITY**

- The Canonical Books have power and efficacy – they are the only rule for our faith and life.**
- Apocryphal books are not authoritative, and are subservient to the Canonical Books.**

## **c. May We Make Use Of The Apocryphal Books? If So, How?**

- **Yes, we may use the Apocryphal books.**
  - We may read them.
  - We may take instruction from them.
- **But Limitations.**
  - May read and take instruction from them only if they agree with the canonical books.
  - May not use them to confirm any point of faith or of the Christian religion (i.e., they have no authority).
  - May not use them to weaken or undermine the authority of the canonical books.

## d. What Significance Does Revelation 22:18-19 Have With Regard To The Canon Of Scripture

*"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."*

# BELGIC CONFESSION OF FAITH

## ARTICLE #7

### SUFFICIENCY OF HOLY SCRIPTURES TO BE THE ONLY RULE OF FAITH

[Rev. D. Kleyn, PRCA Missionary]

# a. On What Principle Of The Reformation Is This Article Based?



SOLA SCRIPTURA  
SOLA GRATIA  
SOLA FIDE  
SOLUS CHRISTUS  
SOLI DEO GLORIA

## b. Against Whom Were The Writers Of This Confession Writing In The Opening Statement Of This Article?

*"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."*

- Had in mind the Roman Catholic Church.
  - Added traditions, and made them equal with Scripture.
  - Added extra-biblical requirements for salvation.
- Council of Trent (1545-1563): *"... (the synod) receives and venerates with an equal affection of piety and reverence, all the books both of the Old and of the New Testament - seeing that one God is the author of both - as also the said traditions, as well those appertaining to faith as to morals, either by Christ's own word of mouth, or by the Holy Ghost, and preserved in the Catholic Church by a continuous succession."*

# c. Does The Bible Teach Us Everything It Is Possible To Know?

- No!
  - E.g., Doesn't teach us Math, Science, Grammar, etc.
  - E.g., Doesn't explain fully why God does what He does.
- But does teach us all that we need to know.
  - What we need to know for our salvation.
  - What we need to know for the worship of God.
  - What we need to know for lives of thankfulness.
- The Bible's doctrine is "*most perfect and complete in all respects*" – all we need for time and eternity.

# d. What Is Meant By The Will Of God Mentioned In This Article?

- Two Aspects to God's Will.
  - The Will of God's Decree.
  - The Will of God's Command.
- Article 7 refers to the will of God's Decree.
  - What God has from all eternity planned and purposed. His counsel. His good pleasure.
  - God has one plan: To glorify Himself through the salvation of His elect people in Christ.
  - This plan of salvation is fully contained and thus revealed to us in Scripture.

## e. To What Does “the whole manner of worship, which God requires of us” Refer?

- Our Public Worship of God (worship as churches – a gathering of believers and their children).
- Our Private Worship of God (worshipping God as families, or as individuals).
- Our Worship of God By our Whole Life.
  - Romans 12:1-2.
  - Psalm 35:28, 44:8, 71:8.
  - Proverbs 23:17.
  - Ephesians 5:20.

**ROMANS 12:1-2** – *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*

**PSALM 35:28** – *"And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long."*

**PSALM 44:8** – *"In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name for ever."*

**PSALM 71:8** – *"Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day."*

**PROVERBS 23:17** – *"Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long."*

**EPHESIANS 5:20** – *"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;"*

## **f. In What Ways Could One (or do some today) Try To Add To Scripture?**

- The Church of Rome by its addition of Tradition.
- Those who claim to receive new revelations from God – e.g., Pentecostals, Cults, etc.
- Those churches who add non-biblical elements in worship (against the Regulative Principle of Worship – the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment).
- Any (e.g., pastor in sermon) who give their own non-biblical views/interpretations. Mark 7:7.

# g. In What Ways Would It Be Possible To Take Away From Scripture?

- Deny a TRUTH of the Bible.
  - e.g., creation, predestination, etc.
- Deny the HISTORICAL FACTS of the Bible.
  - e.g., the flood, red-sea crossing, miracles, etc.
- Deny the APPLICATION of the Bible.
  - e.g., women in church office, Sabbath day, etc.
- Deny the INSPIRATION of the Bible.
  - e.g., say some things are ideas or opinions of men.

# h. How Are The Scriptures Different From The Writings Of Men?

- **The Scriptures:**
  - Inspired.
  - Infallible.
  - Inerrant.
  - Authoritative.
  - Trustworthy.
- **The Writings Of Men:**
  - All men are of themselves liars, and more vain than vanity itself.
  - You cannot simply believe and trust what men say or write.
- Must be discerning. Try the spirits – I JOHN 4:1
- Must reject false teachers and doctrines – II JOHN 1:10

# **i. Are Some Books Of The Bible Of More Value Than Others?**

- Are books such as Genesis, Psalms, Matthew, Romans, etc. more important than others?

## **ANSWER**

- Some books may be clearer on certain doctrines, and/or more applicable at a certain time.
- But no books of the Bible are more important.
  - The Bible is a whole – one Word of God.
  - Each book is an important part of that.

# **BELGIC CONFESSION OF FAITH**

## **ARTICLE #8**

**GOD IS ONE IN ESSENCE, YET  
DISTINGUISHED IN THREE PERSONS**

**[Rev. D. Kleyn, PRCA Missionary]**

# a. What Distinguishes The Persons Of The Trinity From Each Other?

- They are "... *distinct according to their incommunicable properties ...*"; "... *distinguished by their properties ...*"
  - *"The Father is the cause, origin, and beginning of all things visible and invisible."*
  - *"The Son is the word, wisdom, and image of the Father."*
  - *"The Holy Ghost is the eternal power and might, proceeding from the Father and the Son."*
- **The Personal Properties of Each Person:**
  - **FATHER** – begets the Son and breathes forth the Spirit.
  - **SON** – begotten of the Father & breathes forth the Spirit.
  - **SPIRIT** – proceeds from both the Father and the Son.
  - [Psalm 2:7, John 1:18, John 15:26, etc.]

## **b. Do Each Of The Three Persons Have Different Work To Do, as Articles 8 & 9 and also LD 8 of the HC seem to teach?**

- *Article 9 – "... The Father is called our Creator, by His power; the Son is our Savior and Redeemer, by His blood; the Holy Ghost is our Sanctifier, by His dwelling in our hearts...."*
- **Explanation:**
  - Each person is involved in all the works of God.
    - In Creation – Genesis 1:1-2, Psalm 33:6.
    - In Redemption – Jonah 2:9, John 6:38, Luke 1:35.
    - In Sanctification – John 14:26, Titus 2:13-14.
  - But each of these works is most appropriate to one of the Persons, and thus that Person is prominent in that work.

## c. Explain These Three Terms Concerning The Trinity.

### 1. CO-EQUAL

- No person is subordinate to the others.
- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Person does not refer to greatness.

### 2. CO-ETERNAL

- All three Persons existed from all eternity.
- E.g., the Father did not exist before the Son.

### 3. CO-ESSENTIAL

- Each Person partakes fully of the divine essence.
- Each has all the attributes. Each is fully God.

# BELGIC CONFESSION OF FAITH

## ARTICLE #9

THE PROOF OF THE FOREGOING ARTICLE  
OF THE TRINITY OF PERSONS IN ONE GOD

[Rev. D. Kleyn, PRCA Missionary]

# a. Article 9 Mentions Some Who Oppose The Truth Of The Trinity. What Are The Following Heretical Views?

1. TRITHEISM (Polytheism)
  - Each Person is a separate God, thus there are 3 Gods.
  - E.g., Mormons.
2. MONOTHEISM (Unitarianism)
  - God is only one Person (not 3 persons).
  - Thus deny the divinity of the Son and the Spirit.
3. MODALISM
  - Father in OT, Son in early NT, Spirit after Pentecost.
  - God is 1 Person, Who reveals Himself in different forms (modes) at different times.

## **b. Who Today Does Not Believe That God Is Triune?**

- **JEWS** – are monotheists, especially because they deny that Jesus Christ is God.
- **MORMONS** – are polytheists; say the Father and Son and Spirit are three separate beings.
- **JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES** – are monotheists; deny the divinity of the Son and the Spirit.
- Many others – e.g., .....
- [Note: It is not true that all religions worship the same God, but just in different ways.]

## c. What Is The Significance Of The Trinity As Regards God's Relationship To His People?

- God is a Covenant God in Himself.
  - God eternally enjoys a life of fellowship and friendship.
  - The Trinity makes this possible – there are 3 Persons.
- God is a Covenant God in Relationship to His People.
  - His relationship to us reflects what He Himself has.
  - It is a relationship of friendship and fellowship with us.
  - Because He is Triune, he could conceive of this.
- NB: Salvation is the realization of the Covenant. God brings us into His covenant life so we share in it.

## d. What Is The “Benefit” Of The Trinity That We Will Eternally Have And Enjoy In Heaven?

- *“Although this doctrine far surpasses all human understanding, nevertheless we now believe it by means of the Word of God, but expect hereafter to enjoy the perfect knowledge and benefit thereof in heaven.”*
- Answer: The full realization and experience of the covenant of grace.
  - Perfect fellowship and friendship with God (no sin).
  - With God our Father; With Christ our Elder Brother.
  - With the whole (every elect member) of our true family.

# e. When Jesus Prayed To His "Father," Did He Pray To The First Person Or To The Triune God? What About Us?

- Examples: Matthew 26:39, John 17:1, 5, 11.
- Explanation:
  - He prayed to the Triune God. He did so as a man.
  - The Triune God is the Father of Jesus Christ in the flesh.
  - Romans 15:6, II Corinthians 1:3, Ephesians 1:3, etc.
- Our Prayers:
  - Not to Jesus, as some do. They think/claim He is more approachable. (This denies the 3 Persons are co-equal.)
  - We must always pray to the Triune God ("Father" = Triune God), through and for the sake of Jesus Christ.

## **f. What Does The Fact That Art. 9 Mentions Various Other Creeds Imply Concerning These Creeds?**

- **Three Creeds mentioned:**
  - The Apostles' Creed
  - The Nicene Creed
  - The Athanasian Creed
- **Explanation:**
  - By adopting and holding to the Belgic Confession, we also adopt and must hold to these other creeds.
  - These are also official creeds of Reformed Churches who subscribe to the Three Forms of Unity.

# **BELGIC CONFESSION OF FAITH**

## **ARTICLE #10**

### **JESUS CHRIST IS TRUE AND ETERNAL GOD**

**[Rev. D. Kleyn, PRCA Missionary]**

# a. What Names Of Our Savior Are Mentioned Here, And What Does Each Of These Names Mean?

- **JESUS – Jehovah Salvation (Matthew 1:21)**
- **CHRIST**
  - The Anointed One. Same as “Messiah” in O.T.
  - He is our Prophet, Priest, and King.
- **ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD**
  - The eternal and natural Son of God.
  - We are “sons” of God in a different way – adopted.
- **WORD – He is the voice/speech of God and thus the revelation of God to us.**

## Titles in Scripture Attributed To The Lord Jesus Christ:

Advocate (1 John 2:1)  
Almighty (Rev. 1:8; Mt. 28:18)  
Alpha and Omega (Rev. 1:8; 22:13)  
Amen (Rev. 3:14)  
Apostle of our Profession (Heb. 3:1)  
Atoning Sacrifice (1 John 2:2)  
Author of Life (Acts 3:15)  
Author & Perfector of our Faith (Heb 12:2)  
Author of Salvation (Heb. 2:10)  
Beginning and End (Rev. 22:13)  
Blessed and only Ruler (1 Tim. 6:15)  
Bread of God (John 6:33)  
Bread of Life (John 6:35; 6:48)  
Capstone (Acts 4:11; 1 Pet. 2:7)  
Chief Cornerstone (Eph. 2:20)  
Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4)  
Christ (1 John 2:22)  
Creator (John 1:3)  
Deliverer (Rom. 11:26)  
Eternal Life (1 John 1:2; 5:20)  
Everlasting Father (Isa. 9:6)  
Gate (John 10:9)  
Faithful and True Witness (Rev. 3:14)  
First and Last (Rev. 1:17; 2:8; 22:13)  
Firstborn From the Dead (Rev. 1:5)  
God (John 1:1; 20:28; Heb. 1:8; Rom. 9:5; 2 Pet. 1:1; 1 John 5:20; etc.)  
Good Shepherd (John 10:11,14)  
Great Shepherd (Heb. 13:20)  
Great High Priest (Heb. 4:14)  
Head of the Church (Eph 1:22; 4:15; 5:23)  
High Priest (Heb. 2:17)  
Holy and True (Rev. 3:7)  
Holy One (Acts 3:14)  
Hope of Glory (Col. 1:27; 1 Tim. 1:1)  
Horn of Salvation (Luke 1:69)  
I AM (John 8:58)  
Image of God (2 Cor. 4:4)  
King Eternal (1 Tim. 1:17)  
King of Israel (John 1:49)  
King of the Jews (Mt. 27:11)  
King of kings (1 Tim 6:15; Rev. 19:16)  
King of the Ages (Rev. 15:3)  
Lamb of God (John 1:29)  
Lamb Without Blemish (1 Pet. 1:19)  
Last Adam (1 Cor. 15:45)  
Life (John 14:6; Col. 3:4)  
Light of the World (John 8:12)  
Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Rev. 5:5)  
Living One (Rev. 1:18)  
Living Stone (1 Pet. 2:4)  
Lord (2 Pet. 2:20)  
Lord of All (Acts 10:36)  
Lord of Glory (1 Cor. 2:8)  
Lord of lords (Rev. 19:16)  
Mediator of the New Covenant (Heb 9:15)  
Mighty God (Isa. 9:6)  
Morning Star (Rev. 22:16)  
Offspring of David (Rev. 22:16)  
Only Begotten Son of God (John 1:18)  
Our Great God and Savior (Titus 2:13)  
Our Holiness (1 Cor. 1:30)  
Our Redemption (1 Cor. 1:30)  
Our Righteousness (1 Cor. 1:30)  
Our Passover Lamb (1 Cor. 5:7)  
Power of God (1 Cor. 1:24)  
Precious Cornerstone (1 Pet. 2:6)  
Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6)  
Prophet (Acts 3:22)  
Resurrection and Life (John 11:25)  
Righteous One (Acts 7:52; 1 John 2:1)  
Rock (1 Cor. 10:4)  
Root of David (Rev. 5:5; 22:16)  
Ruler of God's Creation (Rev. 3:14)  
Ruler of the Kings of the Earth (Rev. 1:5)  
Savior (Eph. 5:23; Titus 1:4; 3:6; 2 Pet 2:20)  
Son of David (Lk. 18:39)  
Son of God (John 1:49; Heb. 4:14)  
Son of Man (Mt. 8:20)  
Son of the Most High God (Lk. 1:32)  
Source of Eternal Salvation (Heb. 5:9)  
The One Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5)  
The Stone the builders rejected; Acts 4:11  
True Bread (John 6:32)  
True Light (John 1:9)  
True Vine (John 15:1)  
Truth (John 1:14; 14:6)  
Way (John 14:6)  
Wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24)  
Wonderful Counselor (Isa. 9:6)  
Word (John 1:1)  
Word of God (Rev. 19:13)

## **b. What Proofs Does Article 10 Give That Jesus Christ Is True And Eternal God?**

- He is eternally begotten (not made or created).
- He is co-essential with the Father.
- He is co-eternal with the Father.
- He is co-equal with the Father.
- He is the almighty One Who created all things.
- He has been from everlasting (Micah 5:2).
- He has neither beginning nor end (Hebrews 7:3).
- He is God Whom we invoke, worship, and serve.

## c. Who Today Denies What This Article Teaches? How Should We Argue With Them?

- Denied by:
  - Jehovah's Witnesses – Jesus is "a" Son of God.
  - INC – a man whom God exalted to be His Son.
  - Many others cults/sects, as well – .....
- Our Discussion/Conversation With Them:
  - Ask: "Do you believe that Jesus IS God?"
  - Biblical Proofs: Micah 5:2, John 1:2, 8:58, 10:30, Rev. 1:8, ....
  - Biblical Warnings: I Cor. 12:3, I John 2:22, I John 4:2-3.
  - Call them to repent of this most serious sin.

## **d. The Article Concludes By Stating That We Worship Jesus Christ. Should We Pray To Him?**

- **We worship the Triune God. Thus we worship Christ as God, as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Person of the Trinity.**
- **We pray to the Triune God.**
  - **Thus we do not pray to Jesus directly, but to the Triune God through Him.**
  - **We pray to God in the Name of Jesus Christ and for the sake of Jesus Christ.**
  - **He intercedes for us – prays on our behalf (when we don't or can't pray), perfects our prayers, etc.**

## **e. Why Is The Teaching Of Article 10 Important With Regard To Your Salvation?**

- **If Jesus Christ is not God/Divine, He cannot save us.**
  - He would be unable to make atonement.
  - He would have no power to save us.
  - Thus, we would be without a Savior/Redeemer.
- **Three Requirements for our Savior:**
  - He must be truly GOD.
  - He must be truly MAN.
  - He must be SINLESS.
- **[See Lord's Days 5 & 6 of Heidelberg Catechism]**

# BELGIC CONFESSION OF FAITH

## ARTICLE #11

### THE HOLY GHOST IS TRUE AND ETERNAL GOD

[Rev. D. Kleyn, PRCA Missionary]

# a. Some Deny That The Holy Spirit Is A Person. How Do The Following Texts Prove Otherwise?

1. JOHN 14:26
  - The Spirit is “sent.”
  - Spirit does work – “teaches,” “brings to remembrance.”
2. JOHN 16:8, 13
  - Spirit does divine works: “reproves the world,” “guides into all truth,” “speaks things,” “show things.”
3. ROMANS 8:11, 26
  - The Spirit works – raised Christ, raises us, prays for us.
  - The Spirit lives – He lives in us.
4. ACTS 5:3-4 – The Spirit is lied to as a Person.

# **b. How Do The Following Texts Prove The Holy Spirit Is Divine?**

## **1. PSALM 104:30**

- The Spirit creates and renews the earth.

## **2. PSALM 139:7-10**

- The Spirit is omnipresent – we cannot hide from Him.

## **3. JOHN 3:5-6**

- The Spirit is omnipotent – He regenerates the elect.

## **4. I CORINTHIANS 2:11**

- The Spirit is omniscient – He knows the things of God.

## **5. I CORINTHIANS 3:16 – The Spirit lives in us.**

## c. Why Are These Truths Concerning The Spirit Important For Your Salvation?

- If the Spirit is not God/Divine:
  - He has no power to regenerate us.
  - He has no power to work faith in us.
  - He has no power to sanctify us.
  - He has no power to preserve us in our salvation.
- If the Spirit is not God, the salvation Christ earned “for” us cannot become salvation “in” us. We would receive nothing of the “ordo salutis” (order of salvation).
- However, because the Spirit is God/Divine, salvation is a reality for us. We receive it, experience it, enjoy it, etc.