

1. Creeds

Intro to Belgic Confession & Canons of Dordt

Creeds

What is a creed?

A statement about what a church or group of churches believes
It must be officially adopted by the church or churches

What are the Ecumenical Creeds to which we hold?

Apostles' Creed Nicene Creed Athanasian Creed Creed of Chalcedon
These creeds are especially about the Trinity and the Incarnation.

What are our Reformed Creeds [Three Forms of Unity]

Belgic Confession [1561]
Heidelberg Catechism [1563]
Canons of Dordt [1618-19]

Why were creeds written?

Usually because of a controversy over false teachings

Our creeds help us to do what?

Understand God's word [Summarizes it]
Instruct the children
Preserve the understanding of the truth [starting point for further development]

What are some common objections to creeds

Scripture is sufficient
Creeds are the word of man
Creeds unnecessarily bind the conscience
Creeds divide rather than unite
Creeds are out of date
Creeds hinder development in understanding the truth

Distinction between the Reformed Creeds

Heidelberg Catechism

[Heidelberg] Written in Heidelberg, Germany
[Catechism] In question-and-answer format for the instruction of the youth

Belgic Confession

Had more influence in the Netherlands than in Belgium.
Sometimes called The Netherlands' Confession or The Confession of Faith

Canons of Dordt

Canon = A rule
Written against the 5 points of the Remonstrants [covers the TULIP]