

CONFESSIONALISM

Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you. -2 Timothy 1:13-14

Further Reading:

- *Reformed Confessionalism* by D. Blair Smith
- *Crisis of Confidence: Reclaiming the Historic Faith in a Culture Consumed with Individualism and Identity* by Carl Trueman

Patterns of Confession

- Creeds in Scripture (1 Corinthians 15:1ff, Timothy 3:16, Philippians 2:5-11, Colossians 1:15-20)
- Deposits / The faith (Jude 3-4, 2 Timothy 1:13-14)
- Apostolic Tradition (2 Thessalonians 2:15)
- Creeds of the Early Church against Heresy
 - Apostle's Creed
 - Nicene Creed
 - Athanasian Creed
 - Chalcedonian Definition
- Confessions after the Protestant Reformation

What a Confession is NOT

- Not the boundary of the universal Church
- Not an authority equal with Scripture
- Not inerrant nor free from a need to be updated
- Not required of every individual member

What a Confession Does

Confessions...

- Bless (Jeremiah 23:9–40)
- Liberate
- Guard
- Unite
- Build Peace
- Humble
- Encourages Partnership
- Summarize Scripture
- Equip for Discipleship

Subscription

- *Quia*
- *Quatenus*
- *Ex animo*
- Scruples or exceptions
- *Animus imponentis*
- Doctrine

Degrees of Subscription

- Absolute Subscription
 - Historical Subscription
- Full Subscription
- System Subscription
- Substance (of evangelical faith) Subscription
- Substance (of the Christian religion) Subscription

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- Scripture is the Rule