

GUESS WHERE IT CAME FROM....

...Moderation is to be exercised where singing is used in a meeting for worship. That song which they call the Gregorian Chant has many foolish things in it; hence it is rightly rejected by many of our churches. (5.221)

Q: But may not images be permitted in churches in place of books for the unlearned?

A: No, we should not try to be wiser than God. God wants the Christian community instructed by the living preaching of his Word - not by idols that cannot even talk. (4.098)

That same eternal God and Father, who by grace alone chose us in his Son Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world was laid, appointed him to be our head, our brother, our pastor, and the great bishop of our souls. (3.08)

Since men are never exposed to more grievous temptations than when they are harassed by infirmities, are sick and are weakened by diseases of both soul and body, surely it is never more fitting for pastors of churches to watch more carefully for the welfare of their flocks than in such diseases and infirmities. Therefore let them visit the sick soon, and let them be called in good time by the sick... (5.234)

Since Satan has labored from the beginning to adorn his pestilent synagogue with the title of the Kirk of God, and has incited cruel murderers to persecute, trouble, and molest the true Kirk and its members, a... So it is essential that the true Kirk be distinguished from the filthy synagogues by clear and perfect notes lest we, being deceived, receive and embrace, to our own condemnation, the one for the other. (3.18)

Q.: Why does the creed add, "He descended into hell?"

A: To assure me during attacks of deepest dread and temptation that Christ my Lord, by suffering unspeakable anguish, pain, and terror of soul, on the cross but also earlier, has delivered me from hellish anguish and torment. (4.044)

This is why we abandon the teaching of the Roman Church and withdraw from its sacraments; first- ly, because their ministers are not true ministers of Christ Jesus (indeed they even allow women, whom the Holy Ghost will not permit to preach in the congregation to baptize) and, secondly, because they have so adulterated both the sacraments with their own additions that no part of Christ's original act remains in its original simplicity. (3.22)

Therefore we condemn the Jews and Mohammedans, and all those who blaspheme that sacred and adorable Trinity. (5.019)

AS WE DO NOT RASHLY CONDEMN WHAT GOOD MEN,
ASSEMBLED TOGETHER IN GENERAL COUNCILS LAWFULLY
GATHERED, HAVE SET BEFORE US; SO WE DO NOT RECEIVE
UNCRITICALLY WHATEVER HAS BEEN DECLARED TO MEN UNDER
THE NAME OF THE GENERAL COUNCILS, FOR IT IS PLAIN THAT,
BEING HUMAN, SOME OF THEM HAVE MANIFESTLY ERRED, AND
THAT IN MATTERS OF GREAT WEIGHT AND IMPORTANCE. BUT...
IF MEN MAKE DECISIONS CONTRARY TO THE WORD OF GOD,
THEN WE MUST UTTERLY DENY THEM AS THE DOCTRINE OF
THE DEVILS, DRAWING OUR SOULS FROM THE VOICE OF THE
ONE GOD TO FOLLOW THE DOCTRINES AND TEACHINGS OF
MEN...

— SCOTS CONFSSION, 3.20

WEEK 3: REFORMATION CONFESSIONS

SCOTS, HEIDELBERG, AND SECOND HELVETIC

The wild world of the Protestant Reformation



SCOTS CONFSSION SCOTLAND, 1561

- Part of a peace treaty with Queen Mary of Scots
- Abolished Mass and jurisdiction of the Pope
- Scottish Parliament commissioned 6 pastors to write a statement of protestant faith. (Fun fact: all 6 were named John)
- John Knox - greatly influenced by John Calvin & helped in producing the *Geneva Bible* (1st translation of the Bible into English, 1560)
- Scots Confession eventually superseded by Westminster Catechism 1647

THEMES: ALL UNDER SCRIPTURE, THE TRUE "KIRK," SACRAMENTS, ROLE OF COUNCILS

"Long have we thirsted, dear brethren, to have made known to the world the doctrine which we profess for which we have suffered abuse and danger; but such has been the rage of Satan against us, that until this day we have had neither time nor opportunity to set forth our faith, as gladly as we would have done." - Scots Confession, Preface

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM GERMANY, 1562

- Published as liturgy (used in communal worship), written with "I"
- Written in the German Palatinate, mostly Lutheran, experiencing debates about sacrament of the Lord's Supper
- Frederick the Elector + Princess Maria (Lutheran), Frederick commissioned the catechism to bring order/clarity to Communion. Hired Caspar Olevianus & Zacharias Ursinus. (Reformed theologians...weird.)
- Freddie got in trouble with the pope re: Augsburg Confession. Defense: "But my Bible says..."
- Brought by Dutch explorers to Manhattan Island in 1609, 1st Reformed Confession in the American colonies

THEMES: EMPHASIS ON BIBLE & JESUS, ECUMENICAL, PERSONAL & PRACTICAL

*FUN FACT: AN ECUMENICAL REVISION COMMENCED TO REMOVE "HOMOSEXUAL PERVERSION" WHICH ACCIDENTLY GOT IN THERE, 2014

*Q: What is your only comfort in life and in death?
A: That I am not my own, but belong - body and soul, in life and in death - to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.*

- Heidelberg Catechism 4.001

SECOND HELVETIC CONFSSION SWITZERLAND, 1566

- Most widely recognized confessional statement in Reformed churches worldwide
- Unique! Written by 1 dude: Heinrich Bullinger, a student of Ulrich Zwingli, pastored in Zurich for 44 years (wayyy longer than other reformers)
- Published the confession as an attempt to reconcile Lutheran and Reformed Christians in Germany (adopted by...everywhere).
- Major influence on English Puritans - Charles Hodge of Princeton Seminary
- Longest confession in the BOC.

THEMES: PREACHING, FREEDOM, PREDESTINATION, CHURCH LIFE, FAMILY LIFE, RESPONSIBILITY

Let Christ, therefore be the looking glass, in whom we may contemplate our predestination.

- Second Helvetic Confession, 5.060