

Westminster Confession of Faith: Session One

Introduction, History, and Overview

“Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us” (2 Timothy 1:13-14 NKJV).

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - a. Subject of the Class

 - b. Book for the Class

 - c. Purpose of the Class

- II. The Necessity of Confessions of Faith
 - a. Unity – (1 Cor. 1:10)

 - b. Clarity – (1 Cor. 14:33)

 - c. Perspective – (1 Cor. 15:3)

 - d. Rootedness – (2 Thess. 2:15)

**Good way to remember: “Confessions have PURCs (‘perks’).”*

- III. History and Overview of the Westminster Confession of Faith (1647)
 - a. History
 - i. Before the Westminster Assembly

1. English Civil War (1642-1649)

2. Solemn League and Covenant (1643)

ii. The Westminster Assembly (1643-1653)

b. Overview

i. Thirty-three chapters

ii. Logical Flow of the Confession

Helpful Resources

Bucey, Camden. *A Critical Edition of the Westminster Confession of Faith*. Christ the Center. Reformed Forum, 2020. Accessed April 9, 2022. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNeFPmSd0EA>.

Letham, Robert. *The Westminster Assembly: Reading Its Theology in Historical Context*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 2009.

Trueman, Carl R. "Why Christians Need Confessions." *New Horizons: The Orthodox Presbyterian Church*. Last modified 2013. Accessed April 9, 2022. https://www.opc.org/nh.html?article_id=771.

Van Dixhoorn, Chad. *Confessing the Faith: A Reader's Guide to the Westminster Confession of Faith*. Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2014.

Warfield, Benjamin Breckinridge. *The Westminster Assembly and Its Work*. Vol. 6. *The Works of Benjamin B. Warfield*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1932.