

# BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE 2000

## Introduction

### 1) What is a Creed, Confession, or Statement of Faith?

#### a. **Summary of Christian Doctrine**

A Christian creed is restating in brief, simplified form what you believe to be true based on what the Bible says.

#### b. **Clarifying Document on Specific Issues**

Often creeds and confessions have been used to respond to particular heresies attacking the church.

#### c. **Unifying Document around Essential Beliefs**

A creed or a confession helps to clarify what the church believes about the Bible, and in that way it should serve to help unite us together around Christ.

### 2) Does this contradict our commitment to Sola Scriptura?

#### a. **Sola Scriptura Definition**

We believe that the Scripture is necessary and sufficient, and that it alone is the standard by which all things are judged as true and right.

#### b. **Submission to the Scripture**

A creed or confession is a dependent document, not a sufficient and isolated document. It stands underneath Scripture. The degree that it is useful and right is limited by the degree in which it is faithful to the Bible.

#### c. **Summary of Scripture**

Creeds and confessions are very helpful because they are a summary of Scripture. The Bible is a big book, and it teaches a lot of various things to us about God. Everyone Christian can, and should, summarize the things he or she learns from the Bible in an articulate and concise way.

### 3) Why use a Creed, Confession, or Statement of Faith?

#### a. **Clearly Define our Interpretation of Scripture**

#### b. **Guard Against Heresy**

#### c. **Unify God's People**

#### d. **Enable Cooperation**

#### **4) Biblical Principle for Creeds, Confessions, Statements of Faith**

- a. 1 Tim 1:3-14 – Christian Instruction
- b. Jude 1-25 – Rebuke Heresy
- c. 2 John – Promote Unity

#### **5) Samples of Historic Creeds, Confessions, and Statements of Faith**

- a. Apostles Creed (~180 AD)
- b. Nicene Creed (381)
- c. Chalcedonian Creed (451)
- d. Athanasian Creed (500)
- e. Belgic Confession of Faith (1561)
- f. Westminster Confession of Faith (1646)
- g. 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith (1689)
- h. New Hampshire Confession of Faith (1833)
- i. Abstract of Principles (1859)
- j. Baptist Faith and Message (1925)
- k. Baptist Faith and Message (1963)
- l. Baptist Faith and Message (2000)

#### **6) Assignment for Next Week**

Read the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. It is short, and it won't take long. We will be studying Article I – The Scriptures. Look up the verse references noted in Article I and think through how those verses relate to the article.