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The Proper Place of Creeds & Confessions

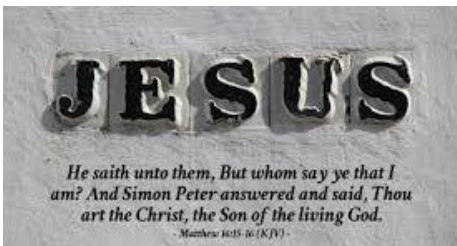
I once read a Christian magazine that had the statement, *'No creed but Christ!*' While, at first glance, this seemed an impressive phrase, further examination confirmed it showed a lack of understanding of the vital place of creeds in churches today.

Creeds are a confession or expression of the faith of believers. While they do not have any claim to existence apart from the Scriptures, a sound creed is a properly worded statement of biblical truths. We must remember that the English word 'creed' comes from the Latin word *credo*, which means *'I believe'*.

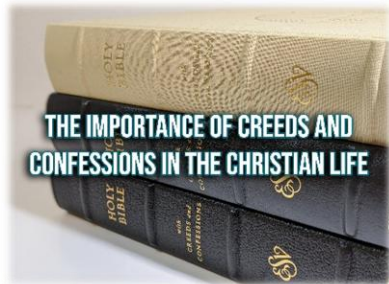
Philip Schaff, the noted church historian, in his *Creeds of Christendom*, defines a creed this way: *'A creed or rule of faith is a confession of faith for public use, or a form of words setting forth with authority certain articles of faith which are regarded by the framers and necessary for salvation, or at least for the well-being of the Christian church'*.

A creed may cover the whole ground of Christian doctrines or focus on a particular point that is fundamental to the Christian faith.

Origin



Where and when did creeds originate? In Matthew 10:32, Jesus said: *'Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven'*. Perhaps one of the first creeds mentioned in the Bible is what Peter said in Matthew 16:16: *'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God'*.



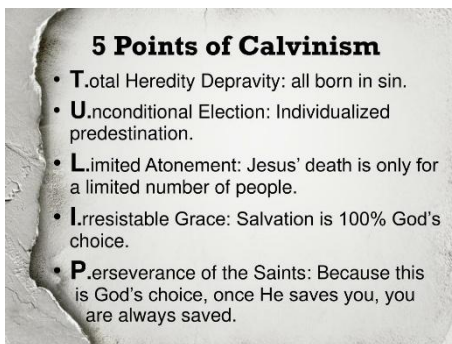
Nathanael said much the same: *'Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel'* (John 1:49). And Philip asked the Ethiopian eunuch and he professed his faith in a simple one sentence creed: *'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God'* (Acts 8:37).

CreeDs never precede but presuppose faith. For example, the Apostles' Creed became the prevailing standard in the West during the first few centuries and was followed later by the Nicene Creed in the East.

The first few centuries of theological controversies led to the formulation of many orthodox creeds and confessions to combat heresies. They are still needed today to combat the teachings of cults and the many other heresies of our times.

Sound creeds range from the Athanasian Creed (against the heresy of Arianism, condemned at the Council of Nicaea in AD 325) to the Creed of Chalcedon, to the creeds of the 16th century Protestant Reformation.

The Reformation creeds include the Augsburg Confession of 1530, the 39 Articles of the Church of England, the Canons of Dort of 1618–19 (where we get the five points of Calvinism under the acronym TULIP, against Arminianism), the Westminster Confession of Faith of 1643–47, the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith, the Helvetic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism of and the Belgic Confession of .



Uses

CreeDs are subordinate to the Bible, and their value depends entirely on their agreement with the Scriptures. A well worded and biblically sound creed can be an accurate and helpful expression of revealed truths.

Every well-regulated Christian church today should have a standard doctrinal standard for its members to adhere to. While no creed can be an absolute guarantee of protection for a church or Christian's purity of faith and practice, we are surely far better off with, than without, one.

There are seven practical uses for a Reformed creed in the life of a church. They delineate or define the doctrinal or theological position of a church; they discern or distinguish a Reformed church from others; they help defend the faith, where there is an assault on its beliefs; they help disseminate(or distribute) the doctrines of grace to succeeding generations; they help develop sound biblical inter-church relations with others like-minded in the faith; they help nurture younger Christians; and they deepen our connection with and understanding of the Christian church of the past.

The Bible-Presbyterian (B-P) church adheres to the Westminster Confession of Faith; I urge its members and friends to have a good understanding of its contents — and of the Larger and Shorter Westminster Catechisms and the directory of Public Worship as well.

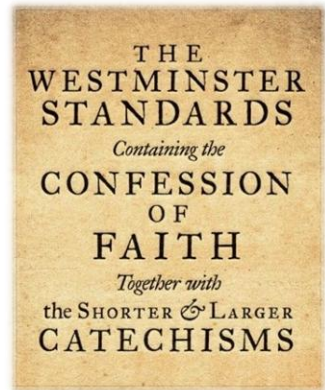
Practice

It is lamentable that sound creeds and confessions are seldom given their rightful place in the life of the church. Perhaps, this is the reason for today's heresies, deception and spiritual compromise, and the dilemmas besetting many church members.

It is important that we do not just claim to have a creed, but practise what is written in it; otherwise, such claims are futile and worthless.

The author was encouraged one day, when speaking in a certain church, to hear that one of its leaders was teaching the Westminster Confession to its Sunday school. Our own church the pastor (and the elder) teach the Shorter Catechism in our church's catechism class, over 4-5 months, to each new member or interested worshipper.

Why not get hold of a copy of the Westminster Confession of Faith or the Shorter Catechism and read, memorise, digest, assimilate and internalise their contents — and make an effort to teach them to your children as well? It will be greatly for their blessing to mature them as Christians.



Jack Sin

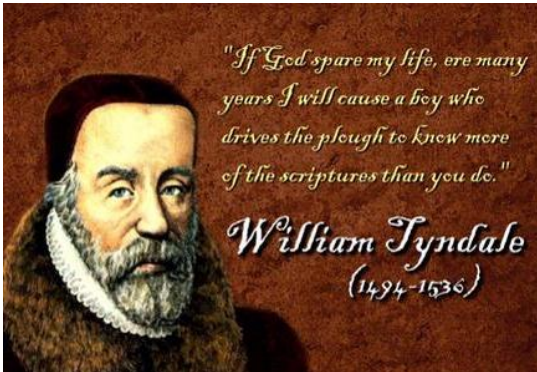
(For deeper studies, Read Philip Schaff, The Creeds of Christendom, Baker Books, 1993)



Sunday School class on the book of Revelation by Dr Tan Kwong Leen. Come and join us for a time of learning and fellowship.

Tyndale & the English Language

The best way to learn English is to read the bible as David Marshall, our first chief Minister of Singapore attested to it.



Many of our idioms and English metaphors we still use today are taken from the Bible like Salt of the earth, let there be light, eat drink and be merry, fight the good fight, broken hearted, atonement, scapegoat, and justification among others. William Tyndale is the true Father of the English language (not William Shakespeare with due respect), an accomplished Oxford Scholar and noted linguist in 7 languages who laid the foundation for the popular use of the early

modern English among the common people.. He translated the bible from the original Greek and Hebrew into English, though opposed and persecuted by the church of England (while Wycliffe translated it from that Latin Vulgate in the 14th century)

By the time Shakespeare wrote Macbeth in 1607 and the public plays to the people in 1611, the KJV was already published and distributed as approved by King James VI. It was Tyndale work that made it into much of the KJV, and he made it accessible and directly relevant to the common English-speaking people

Many in England in the 16th and 17th century learnt more English from Tyndale than Shakespeare who stole the thunder from him with his renowned plays and books which become more popular later while the humble and faithful martyr for Christ was quickly and conveniently forgotten

Shakespeare was only born in 1564 and by then Tyndale has translated the Bible into English, New Testament first in 1525 and then much of the Old Testament in 1535 though Mike Coverdale took his manuscripts and completed it from where he left off after his arrest in 1535 and his subsequent execution in 1536.

The English language spread all over England and became the vernacular national language (and later international) because of that Bible that was read by many as by 1538 King Henry VIII decreed that there is to be a bible placed in every church of England parish for all to read.

God moves in mysterious ways, and England became a great nation and power in the famous or infamous great British empire all over the world because God was in the midst of it and the very decline of England today is the exact reverse of that. We need to sing again, "God save the King" for we need it desperately today.

We owe much to Tyndale and to the English Bible for what it helped to shape England (and the US later) and transformed many lives and consequently affected much of the English-speaking world today.

Jack Sin

What are Idioms in the Bible?

Figures of speech with deeper meaning found throughout Scripture.

• • #MoreJoyMinistries • •

<p>A Drop in the Bucket Isaiah 40:15</p> 	<p>The Apple of the Eye Psalm 17:3</p> 	<p>The Handwriting on the Wall Daniel 5</p> 	<p>By the Skin of My Teeth Job 19:20</p> 
<p>Cast the First Stone John 8:7</p> 	<p>Good Samaritan Luke 10</p> 		

Biblical Idioms Explained

<p>Adam "Knew" His Wife (An idiom for sexual relations)</p> 	<p>Flowing with Milk & Honey (Rich and Abundant Land)</p> 	<p>"Heart Melted" (Lost Courage)</p> 
<p>From Dan to Beersheba (All of Israel)</p> 	<p>"Gird Up Your Loins" (Get Ready for Action)</p> 	

The Bible Uses Figurative Language!

Understanding idioms helps us better grasp the true meaning of

#MoreJoyMinistries

Memory Verse Review

3 Apr Good Friday *"The Cross & the Crown of Life (Rom 5:1-12)"*

Rom 5:11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the _____.

5 Apr Resurrection Sunday *"Why We Need Not Fear Death (1Cor 15: 42-58)"*

1Cor 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the _____ through our Lord Jesus Christ.

12 Apr *"Biblical Understanding of Biblical Separation & Purity (2Cor 6:14-18, 2Chr 19:1,2)"*

2Cor 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my _____ and _____, saith the Lord Almighty.

19 Apr *"Biblical Understanding of Reformed Worship (Jn 4:22-24 1Cor 14:33,40)"*

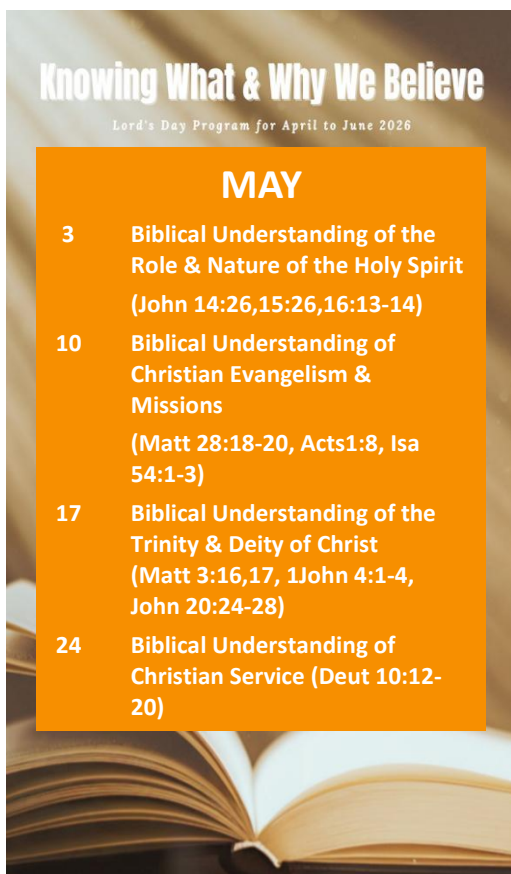
John 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for _____ is of the Jews.

26 Apr *"Biblical Understanding of Covenant Theology (Rom 9:26-30, Eph 1:4-5)"*

Eph 1:4 According as he hath _____ us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be _____ and without _____ before him in love:

Did you get them right?

[atonement, victory, sons, daughters, salvation, chosen, holy, blame]



Last Sunday @Sovereign Hope....

**Eld Johnson & Nancy
from Carmel BPC, Perth.**



Lunch Fellowship

**Bring your Hokkien-speaking family members and friends
to this Gospel Peace Station special meeting in Ang Mo Kio
by Joseph & Rachel Wee.**

服侍福建长者
Serving Hokkien Seniors
福音平安站
hok-im peng-an cham
Gospel Peace Station (GPS)

每个周六
Every Saturday
10.30am - 2.30pm

Ang Mo Kio Ave 1
Blk 225 #08-589
Postal: 560225
[Lift Lobby B]

WELCOME 欢迎
Message us @
请联络我们
WhatsApp
8 0646 589

Host
Joseph & Rachel
约瑟 & 拉结



WELCOME to 福音平安站



Coffee snacks
咖啡茶点



Free and easy
自由交谈



Guidance
引导支持



Spiritual Life
属灵生命

耶穌基督說
我將我的平安賜給你們
第十四章二十七

John 14:27
My peace I
give to you



Parents' Day
Gathering
父母亲欢庆
@225#08-589

09th May
Saturday 星期六
11 am - 1.30 pm

欢迎带食物共同分享



Memory Verse

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "***Biblical Understanding of the Role & Nature of the Holy Spirit (John 14:26,15:26,16:13-14)***", continuing the quarterly series on "***Knowing What & Why We Believe***".
3. Next Sunday, Pastor will preach on "***Biblical Understanding of Christian Evangelism & Missions (Matt 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Isa 54:1-3)***".
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service are:
 - Walk Thru the Old Testament (Pastor)
 - Studies in Revelation (Dr Kwong Leen)
5. Chinese Fellowship that meets every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom. [**Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178**].
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. [**Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode: 625551**].
7. Pray for:
 - **SHBPC Church Camp: 9-12 June 2026**. Theme: "***The Biblical Perspective of the Christian & Church in a Digital Age***". Camp speaker: Dr Scott Hollander from Western Reformed Seminary, USA. Venue: Yello Hotel, Batam.
 - **Pastor Babu** (New Covenant BPC, Bangalore): Vacation Bible Sch in May
 - **Preacher Myitta** (Yangon, Myanmar): Summer outreach to village children
 - **Gospel Peace Station** (ministry of Joseph & Rachel): Parents Day Outreach on 9 May.
 - **Medical: Kim Meng's mother** [heart condition], **Agnes' parents** [medical conditions & salvation], **Joseph & Lilian's Dil Annabelle Chan** [knee injury],
 - **Dr Sam** [Safety in Country X & Career Pathway], **Yusong** [PostGrad Studies Pathway]
 - **Lily Almon** [citizenship application], **Justin** [PR application]
 - **Pregnancies: Hnin & Lydia** (daughter of Joseph & Lilian)
8. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB Account 392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.