

I BELIEVE...

SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUE OF CONFESSIONS

Today we live in a 21st-century cultural context dominated by the ubiquitous convenience of a digital playground. Google, Facebook, Twitter, and social media provide the soundtrack for our lives.

As a church committed to growing and planting flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ, we need to explore the value, significance, and relevance of our Confessional Standards.

Since its earliest days, the Church, having been impacted by the transforming power of the Gospel, has sought to confess what it believes and believe what it confesses.

Scripture and Confessions are intimately and necessarily bound to one another. Scripture, as the Word of God, authoritatively reveals and interprets God's saving acts and thus stands definitively over the Creeds and Confessions of the church.

The Creeds and Confessions exist not as alternatives to Scripture, but as intentionally brief summaries of what are held to be the Bible's truths vital to a living, growing, and dynamic faith.

Sadly, there have been times in the life of the Church when Confessions were perceived as primarily historic documents that did little more than describe the faith of various people at various times, in various places.

In the ECO, however, we affirm that theological consensus around certain essentials is foundational for a healthy denomination. As a covenant community, our unity derives from a clearly-articulated theology that is Christ-centered, Reformed, and evangelical.

As a growing church family, we seek to stand upon the apostolic foundations contained in the Scriptures while articulating a fresh, dynamic, and vibrant confession of our faith reflective of the faith of the Church throughout the ages.

As you explore the ECO's booklet entitled *Considering the Confessions* and engage with our current Confessions, we do trust that you will come to value the extraordinary theological content, the fidelity to Scripture, and the relevance for the Church in a 21st century setting.

