

## **We All Believe and Confess**

## **Belgic Confession, Introduction**

1. WE ALL: We begin with a corporate, \_\_\_\_\_ confession of faith.
  - a. The authority of the Belgic Confession comes from it being our shared confession of faith as a church in \_\_\_\_\_ to God's Word.

We will not hide them from their children,  
but tell to the coming generation  
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,  
and the wonders that he has done. (Psalm 78:4)
  - b. The role of the Three Forms of Unity (Belgic Confession, Heidelberg Catechism, Canons of Dort):
    - Our \_\_\_\_\_ to God's Word
    - A \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word
    - A way to express and preserve \_\_\_\_\_
    - A way of \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word in fellowship with the church before and around us

2. BELIEVE IN OUR HEARTS: This shared confession is at the same time deeply \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Faith is more than rational knowledge, but it is never \_\_\_\_\_ than rational knowledge.

Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. (Jude 3) Cf. Psalm 78:4b

- b. Faith includes personal \_\_\_\_\_.

...but you shall cling to the LORD your God just as you have done to this day. (Joshua 23:8)

3. CONFESS WITH OUR MOUTHS: Our faith is confessed out loud because it is public truth that speaks to and of the \_\_\_\_\_. We confess with our mouths...

- a. ...as an expression of commitment and covenant \_\_\_\_\_.

- b. ...for the sake of the \_\_\_\_\_, as witness.

- c. ...for the sake of each other, as \_\_\_\_\_.

The Ephraimites, armed with the bow,  
turned back on the day of battle.  
They did not keep God's covenant,  
but refused to walk according to his law.  
They forgot his works  
and the wonders that he had shown them. (Psalm 78:9-11)

- d. This is the urgency of this task, that we might not forget, but \_\_\_\_\_: together, through the generations, and for the glory of the Creator.

But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (Hebrews 10:39)