

## Introduction to the Second London Baptist Confession of 1689 (Part 1)

### Introduction

- A confessional church is a church whose beliefs and teachings are summarized and expressed in one or more of the historic confessions of the Christian church.
- Value and importance of the study of confessions (Eph. 4:14; 2 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 5:12f.; Jude 3)
- Current decrease of confessional churches/neglect of confessions

### I. Some General Concerns Respecting Confessions and Creeds

A. Definition: “a form of words setting forth with authority certain articles of belief which are regarded by the framers as necessary for salvation, or at least for the well-being of the Christian Church” (Philip Schaff)

#### B. Biblical Basis

- Eph. 4:14; 1 Tim. 3:14, 15; 2 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 5:12f.; Jude 3

#### C. Common Objections

1. “Confessions of faith undermine the authority of the Bible.”
2. “Confessions of faith are inconsistent with liberty of conscience.”

#### D. Proper Use

1. A confession of faith is an effective tool for the maintenance of doctrinal purity in the church (Phil. 1:27; 1 Tim. 3:15; Jude 3).
2. A confession of faith provides a public standard for the life and conduct of the church (Rom. 15:6; 1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:3; Phil. 2:2).
3. A confession of faith contributes to a sense of historical continuity.