

Confession Matching Game

Print the cards on cardstock and cut apart. Match the aspects of the creed or description to its title, talking together about the creeds, confessions, and catechisms.

The Nicene Creed

Adopted in a revised and expanded form of the in 325 AD, the most ecumenical of creeds. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) joins with Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and most Protestant churches in affirming it.

The Apostles' Creed

Candidates for membership in the church, along with the congregation, are asked at baptism to state what they believe. They respond in the words of this creed.

The Scot's Confession

“Cleave, serve, worship, trust” are key words in this document. As a call to action in a turbulent time, this confession reflects a spirit of trust and a commitment to the God whose miraculous deliverance the Scots had experienced firsthand.

The Heidelberg Catechism

The catechism's tone is irenic, showing nothing of the controversy that called it forth. Its theology is both catholic, universal in appeal, and evangelical, setting forth the gospel of Jesus Christ. Providing a basis for peaceful coexistence between Lutheran and Reformed Christians, the catechism denied that the bread and wine become the very body and blood of Christ but affirmed that “by this visible sign and pledge . . . we come to share in his true body and blood through the working of the Holy Spirit . . .” (paragraph 4.079).

The Second Helvetic Confession

Lutherans considered this confession too Reformed in spirit, and they demanded that Frederick the Elector, governor of the Palatinate, be brought to trial for heresy. Not a theologian himself, Frederick turned to Heinrich Bullinger, who offered Frederick this confession as the basis for his defense. When the Imperial Diet, the ruling body of Germany, met for trial in 1566, Frederick was exonerated

The Westminster Confession of Faith, Shorter and Larger Catechisms

Representing the fruits of a Protestant scholasticism that refined and systematized the teachings of the Reformation, the standards lift up the truth and authority of the Scriptures, as immediately inspired in Hebrew and Greek, kept pure in all ages, and known through the internal witness of the Holy Spirit. Divine sovereignty and double predestination are also emphasized. In appealing to Scripture to formulate a covenant theology, the standards had important implications for political thought and practice, reminding both ruler and people of their duties to God and to each other.

The Theological Declaration of Barmen

Written by a group of church leaders in Germany to help Christians withstand the challenges of the Nazi party and of the so-called “German Christians,” a popular movement that saw no conflict between Christianity and the ideals of Hitler’s National Socialism.

The Confession of 1967

Addresses the church’s role in the modern world. Responsive to developments in biblical scholarship, it asks the church to “approach the Scriptures with literary and historical understanding” (paragraph 9.29). It calls the church to obedient action, particularly in response to social problems such as racial discrimination, nationalistic arrogance, and family and class conflict. It sees the life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ as the pattern for the church’s mission today, and calls on all Christians to be reconciled to God and to one another.

A Brief Statement of Faith

Unlike the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds, which move directly from Jesus' birth to his death, the statement emphasizes the significance of Jesus' ministry in Judea and Galilee. It emphasizes gender-inclusiveness, and underscores the role of both men and women in God's covenant, uses feminine as well as masculine imagery of God, and affirms ordination of both women and men. The statement also expresses concern for the integrity of God's creation.

Creeds

From the root word "credo," these are "I believe" statements, intended for personal expression of faith.

Confessions

Corporate theological statements usually created in response to a perceived error in doctrine or a social/political situation.

Catechisms

Statements of faith written in question and answer format, and used to instruct new adherents to the faith.