

Bravemen

September 30, 2012

Confessions of the Reformation and Article 7 of the Articles of Religion

1. Why study the confessions rather than only the Bible?

- a. Confessions answer questions about God, his creation and his purposes by taking what the Bible states and putting that into a systematic order.
- b. Examples of ways of thinking about God:
 - i. God never teaches through sickness.
 - ii. Miracles ceased at the time of the Apostles.
 - iii. *“This is my body”* is meant to read, *“this represents my body.”*
 - iv. *“God ... desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”* 1 Timothy 2:3,4. *“The Son of Man came ... to give his life as a ransom for many.”* Mark 10:45.
- c. Confessions are written to clarify what the Church believes in opposition to what we don't believe.
- d. **The Nicene Creed** written to oppose the teachings of Arius in the early 300s: *“God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God, begotten, not made ...”*
- e. The Protestant Reformation began in the early 1500s when Martin Luther, a German Augustinian monk, made 95 statements (thesis) in protest of select practices and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.
- f. As the movement to reform the Roman Catholic Church expanded, the protestors clarified their beliefs as opposed to those of the Roman Catholic Church on the one side and the Radical Reformers on the other.
- g. The results of this clarification are found in select confessions of the Reformers.
 - i. Augsburg Confession, 1530, in Germany. (Lutheran)
 - ii. 39 Articles of Religion, 1552, in England. (Anglican)
 - iii. Helvetic Confessions, 1552 and 1563, in Switzerland. (Reformed)
 - iv. Heidelberg Confession, 1563, in Germany. (Lutheran & Reformed)
 - v. Westminster Confession, 1643, in England & Scotland. (Reformed)
 - vi. Second London Baptist Confession, 1689. (General v Particular Baptists)

2. Article 7. The Old Testament. *The Old Testament is not contrary to the New: for both in the Old and New Testament everlasting life is offered to Mankind by Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and Man, being both God and Man. Wherefore they are not to be heard, which feign that the old Fathers did look only for transitory promises. Although the Law given from God by Moses, as touching Ceremonies and Rites, do not bind Christian men, nor the Civil precepts thereof ought of necessity to be received in any commonwealth; yet notwithstanding, no Christian man whatsoever is free from the obedience of the Commandments which are called Moral.*

Introduction: “Now that Christ has come to fulfill the Old Testament, why do we need the Old Testament? ... A true understanding of the Old Testament is found only in the light of Christ.”

- a. **“The unity of the OT and NT is found in Christ Who offers eternal life in both.”**
 - i. Teachings:
 1. “Salvation and reception and reception are the same in (OT & NT)”