

1689 london baptist confession modern english

Ebook Description: 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith in Modern English

This ebook provides a clear, accessible, and modern translation of the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith. This landmark document, a foundational text for many Baptist and Reformed churches, is often difficult for modern readers to understand due to its archaic language and theological terminology. This edition aims to bridge that gap, presenting the confession's core beliefs in contemporary English while retaining its theological integrity. Understanding the 1689 Confession is crucial for grasping the historical development of Baptist theology and its ongoing influence on evangelical Christianity. This book will be invaluable to pastors, students of theology, church historians, and anyone seeking a deeper understanding of Reformed Baptist beliefs. It offers not only a faithful translation but also helpful explanatory notes and context to aid comprehension.

Ebook Title: A Modern Understanding of the 1689 London Baptist Confession

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Article: A Modern Understanding of the 1689 London Baptist Confession

Introduction: The Historical Context and Significance of the 1689 Confession

The 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith, often simply referred to as the Second London Confession, stands as a pivotal document in the history of

Baptist and Reformed theology. Emerging from the tumultuous backdrop of the late 17th century, a period marked by religious and political upheaval in England, the Confession articulates a comprehensive system of belief that continues to resonate with many Christians today. It wasn't born in isolation but represents a culmination of earlier Reformed confessions, such as the Westminster Confession (1646), while reflecting the distinct theological emphases of the Particular Baptist churches. Understanding its historical context is crucial to appreciating its significance. The aftermath of the English Civil War and the Restoration of the monarchy saw heightened religious tensions and a renewed focus on theological precision. The Baptists, often persecuted for their beliefs, sought to consolidate their doctrinal identity and articulate their distinct convictions regarding church governance, baptism, and the nature of salvation. The 1689 Confession became that unifying statement, a robust affirmation of their faith that continues to shape Baptist identity and practice.

Chapter 1: The Holy Scripture

The Confession begins, as many Reformed documents do, with a declaration on the authority and sufficiency of Scripture. This chapter emphasizes the Bible's inerrancy and its role as the ultimate standard for faith and practice. It affirms the inspiration of the Bible, asserting its divine authorship and complete truthfulness. This foundational belief underpins the entire Confession, guiding its interpretation of other theological issues. The clarity and authority of Scripture are paramount; it's not just a helpful guide but the ultimate source of truth. This chapter tackles issues such as the canon of scripture, its preservation, and its interpretive principles. The focus is on the Bible's role as the sole infallible rule of faith and practice, rejecting any additional source of religious authority.

Chapter 2: God

This section delves into the attributes and nature of God, exploring the doctrines of the Trinity (the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), God's sovereignty, and His relationship with creation. The Confession affirms the oneness of God in three distinct persons, a doctrine central to Christian theology. It also emphasizes God's absolute sovereignty—His ultimate authority and control over all things—while simultaneously acknowledging human responsibility and free will within God's plan. The exploration of God's attributes — His holiness, justice, mercy, and love — provides a framework for understanding God's character and actions within history and human lives. This section lays the groundwork for understanding God's involvement in salvation and His relationship with humanity.

Chapter 3: Man's Fall and Redemption

This crucial chapter addresses the doctrine of humanity's fall into sin through Adam's disobedience and the subsequent consequences. It highlights the inherent depravity of human nature, emphasizing our inability to please God or achieve salvation through our own efforts. The Confession addresses

original sin, emphasizing its impact on every aspect of human life, corrupting our intellect, will, and affections. This section sets the stage for understanding the necessity of God's intervention through Christ for salvation. The chapter also lays out the biblical basis for the doctrine of election, affirming God's sovereign choice in salvation. This is a key aspect of Reformed theology and a point of significant debate.

Chapter 4: Christ and Salvation

This chapter focuses on the person and work of Jesus Christ, the cornerstone of Christian faith. It expounds on the hypostatic union, the unique unity of divine and human natures in Christ. The Confession details Christ's atoning sacrifice on the cross, highlighting its sufficiency to atone for the sins of the elect. This section explores the various aspects of salvation – atonement, justification, regeneration, and sanctification – emphasizing their divine origin and the believer's dependence on God's grace. The discussion of salvation through faith alone, by grace alone, is a central theme, emphasizing the utter inability of humans to contribute to their own salvation.

Chapter 5: The Church and Ordinances

The Confession addresses the nature and function of the church, emphasizing its role as the body of Christ and the community of believers. It outlines the importance of church membership, discipline, and the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. The Confession champions the concept of local church autonomy, rejecting hierarchical structures and affirming the self-governance of individual congregations. The ordinances are viewed as outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual graces, signifying the believer's union with Christ and their commitment to the Christian faith. Baptism is understood as a symbolic representation of the believer's death, burial, and resurrection with Christ, while the Lord's Supper is a commemoration of Christ's sacrifice and a communion with Him.

Chapter 6: Civil Government and Christian Conduct

This section discusses the relationship between Christians and civil government, advocating for obedience to lawful authority while maintaining the distinction between the church and state. The Confession emphasizes the importance of Christian conduct in all spheres of life, calling for integrity, justice, and love in our interactions with others. It also addresses specific ethical issues, providing guidance for Christian living. The balance between obedience to God and submission to government is carefully articulated, acknowledging the legitimate authority of civil government while asserting the supremacy of God's law. This section emphasizes the importance of a godly life as a witness to the transforming power of the Gospel.

Conclusion: The Enduring Relevance of the 1689 Confession in the 21st Century

The 1689 London Baptist Confession remains a powerful and relevant document in the 21st century. Its clear articulation of fundamental Christian truths provides a strong foundation for faith in a world increasingly characterized by relativism and secularism. While some specific cultural applications may need updating, the core theological principles remain timeless and essential. The Confession's emphasis on the authority of Scripture, the sovereignty of God, the grace of salvation, and the importance of godly living continues to resonate with believers who seek a biblically grounded faith. It provides a framework for understanding and navigating the complexities of contemporary life from a distinctly Reformed Baptist perspective.

FAQs:

1. What is the difference between the 1689 London Baptist Confession and the Westminster Confession? While both are Reformed confessions, the 1689 Confession reflects the distinctive Baptist understanding of church polity (congregationalism) and baptism (believers' baptism).
1. Is the 1689 Confession still relevant today? Yes, its core tenets regarding the authority of Scripture, the sovereignty of God, and the grace of salvation remain vital and relevant to contemporary challenges.
1. Who uses the 1689 London Baptist Confession? Many Reformed Baptist churches and denominations worldwide use this confession as a doctrinal standard.
1. What is the significance of the "Particular Baptist" label? This term signifies a belief in particular redemption – the belief that God has chosen specific individuals for salvation.
1. How does the 1689 Confession address the issue of church government? It advocates for congregational church governance, emphasizing the autonomy of local churches.
1. What is the Confession's perspective on the Lord's Supper? It views the Lord's Supper as a commemoration of Christ's sacrifice and a communion

with Him.

1. How does the Confession address social and political issues? It encourages obedience to lawful authority while upholding the supremacy of God's law.
1. Where can I find a complete copy of the 1689 London Baptist Confession? Many online resources and theological libraries provide access to the original and modern translations.
1. Is this ebook suitable for beginners? Yes, the modern English translation and explanatory notes make it accessible to readers with varying levels of theological knowledge.

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