

Sound doctrine and differences in doctrine

1. Sound doctrine

- e.g. Titus 1:9 – “sound” = “healthy”
- how? (a) expository Bible teaching =
(b) constant emphasis on the Gospel =
(c) the unfolding story of the whole Bible =
(d) systematic theology =

2. Why we need creeds and confessions of faith

- the Bible is supreme authority!

“The Supreme Judge, by which all controversies of religion are to be determined, and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men, and private spirits, are to be examined, and in whose sentence we are to rest, can be no other but the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scripture.” Westminster Confession of Faith 1:10
- but... (a) all Christians and churches have a creed!
(b) the Bible requires it, e.g. 2 Timothy 1:13
(c) they limit the church’s power... spell out expectations of church elders... help defend against error... and connect us with the past
(d) they help us to grow and to praise

3. Who believes what at Immanuel?

- What’s expected of church Members = (only) Membership Covenant
- What’s expected of church Elders = Westminster Confession of Faith
 - Personal assent... framework for teaching & pastoral care...
 - Why WCF? Deeply faithful... old... comprehensive... pastoral... God-centred
- Dealing with differences: what... and how...

Helpful resources

J. I. Packer, *Concise Theology*
Westminster Confession of Faith (see talks on Immanuel website)
Carl Trueman, *The creedal imperative*
Carl Trueman video lectures on YouTube

1. [the challenges facing the church today](#)
2. [on biblical preaching](#)
3. [on creeds and confessions](#)