Reformed Creeds and Confessions

January 12-16, 2015

The dust of creeds outworn.
Percy Bysshe Shelley

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Course Description: This course will enable the student to read the creedal materials of the Reformed tradition in context; to understand the nature of the theology which they contain; to appreciate the hermeneutical problems associated with creedal Christianity; to develop an awareness of the issue of creeds and confessions relative to ecclesiology and authority; to see how creeds shape theological debate and formulation; and to understand the importance of creeds and confessions in modern Protestantism.

Course Assessment:

By April 30, 2015, students will submit a 25-30 page paper on a topic agreed with the Instructor.

Reading:

All students should make sure they have copies of the Westminster Standards, The Three Forms of Unity, and the Second Helvetic Confession.

The following books should be read before the class:

David W Hall (ed), The Practice of Confessional Subscription
Samuel Miller, The Utility and Importance of Creeds and Confessions
Jaroslav Pelikan, Credo.
Carl R. Trueman, The Creedal Imperative
Guy Prentiss Waters, How Jesus Runs the Church

In addition, the following books are recommended as sources for creedal documents:

James T Dennison, Reformed Confessions of the 16th and 17th Centuries in English Translation (4 vols.)
Robert Kolb and Timothy Wengert, The Book of Concord
Philip Schaff, The Creeds of Christendom
E F K Müller, Die bekenntniesschriften der Reformierten kirche
There are many works of importance to the formulation of creeds and confessions and their function on the church. The following represent merely some of the more important and accessible:

**Ancient Church**

Khaled Anatolios, *Retrieving Nicea: The Development and Meaning of Trinitarian Doctrine*
Lewis Ayres, *Nicaea and Its Legacy*
John Behr, *The Way to Nicaea*
Kevin Giles, *The Eternal Generation of the Son*
Aloys Grillmeier, *Christ in Christian Tradition* (vol 1)
R P C Hanson, *The Search for the Christian Doctrine of God*
Robert Letham, *The Holy Trinity*
John McGuckin, *Saint Cyril of Alexandria and the Christological Controversy*

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**The Orthodox Church**

Basil Studer, *Trinity and Incarnation*
Rowan Williams, *Arius: Heresy and Tradition*
Frances Young and Andrew Teal, *From Nicea to Chalcedon: A Guide to the Literature and Its Background*

**Reformation and Post-Reformation**

Willem Van Asselt and Eef Dekker (eds), *Reformation and Scholasticism*
Karl Barth, *The Theology of the Reformed Confessions*
Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*
James Bannerman, *The Church of Christ*
David W Hall (ed), *The Practice of Confessional Subscription*
D G Hart, *Recovering Mother Kirk*
Heinrich Heppe, *Reformed Dogmatics*
Charles Hodge, *Church Polity*
Samuel Miller, *The Utility and Importance of Creeds and Confessions*
Richard A Muller, *Post Reformation Reformed Dogmatics*
John Murray, *Collected Writings*, vol 4
J T Mueller, *Christian Dogmatics*
R D Preus, *The Theology of Post Reformation Lutheranism*
Jan Rohls, *Reformed Confessions*
Carl R Trueman and R Scott Clark (eds), *Protestant Scholasticism*