NewSong Church

HARRISON, OHIO

POSITION PAPER

Why We Hold to the 1689 Confession

Scripture first, and a faithful summary of it.

OUR POSITION

Scripture alone is our final authority. NewSong subscribes to the Second London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689 as a faithful summary of what Scripture teaches. The Confession is subordinate to Scripture, derives its authority from Scripture alone, and serves as our doctrinal standard (Statement of Faith).

POSITION PAPER

Why We Hold to the 1689 Confession

Scripture first

The Bible is the inspired, inerrant, and sufficient Word of God, "the final rule for all matters of faith, doctrine, and life" (Statement of Faith). No creed, council, or confession stands above it. The 1689 Confession says the same about itself: the supreme judge of every question of religion "can be no other but the Holy Scripture delivered by the Spirit" (1.10, spelling modernized). If the Confession ever disagreed with Scripture, Scripture would win.

What a confession is for

A confession is a careful summary of what a church believes the Bible teaches. Every church has one, whether written down or not; the question is whether it is clear and open to examination. A written confession helps a church in four ways:

- **Clarity.** It says plainly what we believe, so members and visitors know where we stand.
- **Unity.** It gives the church a shared understanding of the faith, so we can "stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel" (Philippians 1:27).
- **Protection.** It helps the church guard "the pattern of the sound words" (2 Timothy 1:13) and contend for "the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).
- **Teaching.** It gives a framework for teaching the whole counsel of God to new believers and children.

Why this confession

The 1689 Confession was first published in 1677 by Particular Baptist churches in England and publicly affirmed by their general assembly in 1689. Its authors deliberately built on the Westminster Confession (1646) and the Savoy Declaration (1658), keeping most of their wording to show their agreement with other Reformed Protestants. They changed it where they believed Scripture required it, especially on baptism and the church.

It fits NewSong's convictions closely:

- **God's sovereignty** in creation, providence, and salvation
- **The authority and sufficiency of Scripture**
- **Salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, for the glory of God alone**
- **Believer's baptism** and a church of baptized believers
- **Local churches** led by elders, served by deacons, and governed under Christ

Every paragraph of the Confession rests on the Scripture passages printed beneath it, so anyone can test its claims against God's Word. That is exactly what we want you to do.

Read it for yourself

The full text of the 1689 Confession, with every Scripture reference, is on our website under What We Believe.

What this means for members

The Confession is the standard for what NewSong teaches and for its elders, who are responsible to teach and guard the church's doctrine. Members are asked to affirm our Statement of Faith, which summarizes the essentials of what we believe. You do not need to master the Confession to belong to NewSong, but we hope you will read it, test it against Scripture, and grow through it.

KEY PASSAGES

Psalm 19:7–11; Acts 17:11; 1 Timothy 3:15; 2 Timothy 1:13–14; 3:16–17; Jude 3. Statement of Faith, preamble. 1689 Confession, chapter 1.

NewSong Church · 120 North State Street, Harrison, Ohio · newsongharrison.com · 513-202-0654

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.