

## Free Reformed Church of Kelmscott: Family Week 5 – 11 July 2020

Confessional Reading: Belgic Confession, articles 1 and 2

### **For children in primary school:**

You could explain why we have confessions: they summarize the Bible, and in them the Church rejects heresies which came up in the history of the Church.

The Belgic Confession was written in the time of the Reformation. The Roman Catholic Church taught several things that go against the Bible (examples can be mentioned). But also the Anabaptists came up in those days and were teaching heresies.

### **For children in middle school:**

They are going to catechism class and have been explained the need for confessions. You can ask them about this. They should be able to explain it and know a bit about the Belgic Confession as well.

### **Read: Belgic Confession, article 1**

Believe with the heart and confess with the mouth: this comes from Romans 10:9-10.

Question: why is it necessary to believe and confess?

A simple being: the word simple is the opposite of complex. Human beings can be complex and hard to understand, often torn by contrary feelings or knowledge. God is not a man, that He would change His mind. See 1 Samuel 15:29. We can trust in God. He does not say the one moment this, the other moment the opposite.

Incomprehensible, invisible, immutable, infinite: It is hard to describe how God is. The Belgic Confession uses four words which describe how God is NOT. And many more words which all describe one aspect of God's being. All these aspects we know from God's own revelation to us.

Question: The Bible says in 1 John 4:8 that 'God is love'. Is this more important than all the other attributes of God?

### **Read: Belgic Confession, article 2**

God makes Himself known to us: God wants us to know Him. He is not a god like the heathen peoples believed: mysterious, who connected with humans through priests, omens, all kinds of signs: as lay person you never knew exactly how the god was. God is not like that. He makes Himself known to us.

Two means:  
1. God's creation and His providence  
2. His Word.

Questions:

- Do these two revelations equal authority? If not, which has the highest?
- Do those who don't have the Bible have a valid excuse for their ignorance?

For more in-depth discussion:

1. See Romans 10:17 : 'faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.'  
See also Romans 1:19-20. Is it possible to believe without hearing the Word of God?
2. Can we prove from this creation that there must be a Creator or can we prove that the Bible must be true?
3. What is our task in God's creation?
4. How is that different from the way in which unbelievers often engage in environmental activism and speak about the conservation of nature?