

# Workbook



## LIGHT FROM GOD'S WORD

An Exposition of the 1689  
Baptist Confession of Faith

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HILLCREST  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
*Where Truth Matters*

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## INTRODUCTION

### Question 1: Where does the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith (COF) come from?

The title of the Confession indicates the date it was produced, namely 1689. The 1689 Confession is one of the more substantial and comprehensive Protestant confessions of faith. It consists of thirty-two chapters, covering fundamental doctrine (topics such as the nature of God, Scripture and salvation), to lesser (though still important) issues such as the administration of the ordinances and church government. The 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith is one of the most popular and influential confessions amongst Baptists.

It is largely based on the Westminster Confession of Faith (Presbyterian), and only deviates in areas of Baptist distinctives. Otherwise, it is in substantial agreement with the Westminster COF, being Reformed and evangelical.

The 1689 Confession is therefore over 300 years old. However, because we believe it accurately represents biblical truth, it is still very relevant and a good articulation of the unchanging faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3).

### Question 2: What is the value of studying a Confession of Faith?

It is useful to study a confession of Faith for the following reasons:

- (i) It represents the collective understanding of a large body of godly men, pastors and churches regarding what the Bible teaches. As such, it is equivalent to studying what past, great men of God have understood from the Bible.
- (ii) A confession is essentially a body of systematic theology on key doctrines. However, a confession is specifically drawn up to:
  - a. Reflect the key doctrines church leaders wanted their church to believe and understand.
  - b. Have a more practical orientation than just formal doctrines.

Doctrine is an essential element of the Christian life. Christianity is based on truth, which is expressed in the form of doctrines. It is therefore critical for the health and protection of believers and the effectiveness of the church to know and understand the key doctrines of the Bible. Studying the 1689 COF will:

- Help pastors and preachers grow in their knowledge of God's word and biblical truth.
- Help teachers to faithfully preach and teach the truth.

### Question 3: How will the sessions be managed?

Each person will receive the Exposition of the Confession. Questions will be sent to them to do homework. It is critical to do the homework and read through the sections of the Exposition before the training session. A lot of learning will happen through this homework.

At the training session, the trainer will:

- Discuss and confirm answers.
- Explain anything that was unclear or confusing to people.

The trainer will not be able to “teach” all the content of the relevant sections of the Exposition during the session, making the completion of homework critical.

So, everyone really needs to be encouraged to be diligent with their homework, if they are to benefit from this training. They should set themselves the goal of at least:

- Reading through the entire Exposition (both the Confession of Faith and the Explanation).
- Looking up and reading all the Scripture references.
- Attempting every question.

At the end of the training, each person who attends more than 80% of the sessions will receive a certificate from Hillcrest Baptist Church.

## Chapter 1: The Doctrine of Scripture

### Session 1: The necessity and identity of the Bible.

Read Chapter 1, paragraphs 1 to 3 together with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Why is it important for a church to be Bible-based?

Question 2: How would you defend the view that the Bible is absolutely necessary for the Christian life?

Question 3: In a discussion with a Roman Catholic family member, you realise that they have a few extra books in their Bible compared to yours. Is our Bible the correct one? Are we missing some important books? How do you know our Bible is the correct one?

## Session 2: The authority and acceptance of the Bible.

Read Chapter 1, paragraphs 4 and 5 together with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 Cof has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: What makes the Bible authoritative?

Question 2: How would you respond to someone who said that the Bible was just a book written by men, giving their subjective views on religion?

Question 3: At the end of the day, why do believers accept and trust the Bible as the word of God?

Question 4: Why is the doctrine of inerrancy important?

### Session 3: The sufficiency and clarity of the Bible.

Read Chapter 1, paragraphs 6 and 7 together with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: How would you respond to a friend who said that he really wished he had more information from God on how to live his life?

Question 2: If we needed God to speak directly to us today, what would that imply about the sufficiency of Scripture?

Question 3: How would you respond to someone who says that the Bible is so hard to understand that it is not worth trying to read it?

## Session 4: The inspiration, preservation and translation of the Bible.

Read Chapter 1, paragraph 8 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Why do translations have footnotes referring to a few differences in words or verses?

Question 2: If we no longer have the inspired originals, how can we say that we still have the very word of God in the Bible?

Question 3: Why is it important for missionaries to seek to translate the Bible into the local language?



## Session 5: The interpretation and final authority of the Bible.

Read Chapter 1, paragraphs 9 and 10 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Explain some of the rules of interpreting the Bible.

Question 2: Why did the Reformers insist on the Bible being the final authority for the church and believers?

Question 3: Name some modern-day people who claim to be the final authority in the church today.

Question 4: If the Bible is our final authority, why are we studying a Confession of Faith?

## Chapter 2: The Doctrine of God

### Session 6: The attributes of God

Read Chapter 2, paragraph 1 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: In the world today, people have very different “concepts” of what “god” is. If you met a “new ager” who believed god is just a force, what essential attributes would you choose to explain to them “who” or “what” the God of the Bible is? Briefly explain what each of these essential attributes mean.

Question 2: How would you answer someone who said, “God is so great and infinite, we can never know Him at all”?

Question 3: You meet a friend who claims to be a Christian, but he is currently living with his girlfriend. How would you explain the “holiness of God” to them?

Question 4: Does God ever change His mind? Explain.

## Session 7: The relationship of God to His creatures

Read Chapter 2, paragraph 2 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Paragraph 2 has very important implications for modern man, who is often filled with pride, self-sufficiency and a spirit of autonomy. What is the message of paragraph 2 to modern man?

Question 2: Why are the attributes of God essential for living the Christian life? Explain using two or three attributes as examples.

[You need to reflect on paragraphs 1 and 2 to answer this.]

## Session 8: The Trinity

Read Chapter 2, paragraph 3 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Jehovah's Witnesses claim that the doctrine of the Trinity is a man-made heresy that was introduced into the church. As evidence for this, they say the Bible does not have the word "trinity" in it, nor does it systematically "prove" the doctrine of the Trinity anywhere. How would you answer this?

Question 2: Why is the Old Testament foundational to the doctrine of the Trinity?

Question 3: You have a friend who believes Jesus was just a good man or prophet who lived 2000 years ago. Select 2 or 3 of the texts that seem clearest to you and defend the deity of Christ.

Question 4: You meet a "Star Wars" fan who believes the Holy Spirit is very similar to "the force". How would you explain to them Who the Spirit truly is? What are 2 or 3 keys passages you would use?

## Chapter 3: God's Decree

### Session 9: God's decree in general

Read Chapter 3, paragraphs 1 and 2 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Explain the concepts of God's sovereignty, decree and providence, and how they relate to each other.

Question 2: Comment on the view that God only decrees the big or important events in history.

Question 3: One of the main objections to God's decree is that it makes Him responsible for evil and sin. How do you understand God's relationship to evil?

Question 4: Another objection to God's sovereignty is that it makes people into robots. Do people have free will, and do they make real choices in life?

## Session 10: God's decree to salvation (the doctrine of election)

Read Chapter 3, paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: What do the terms "predestination" and "election" mean?

Question 2: Comment on the view that God's choice of people for salvation is based on their worthiness.

Question 3: How would you defend the doctrine of God's election against the objection that it is inherently unfair?

Question 4: What is the relationship between God's sovereignty and those who go to hell? Do God's predestinating purposes send people to hell?

## Session 11: Further understanding of God's decree to salvation (the doctrine of election)

Read Chapter 3, paragraphs 6 and 7 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: It has been objected that if God has predestined all the elect to salvation, then surely we don't have to worry to send out missionaries and evangelise the lost. Comment on this view.

Question 2: Can you know if you are God's elect? How?

Question 3: Why is the doctrine of God's sovereignty, decree and election important?

## Chapter 4: Creation

### Session 12: Creation in general

Read Chapter 4, paragraph 1 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Why do you think "Creation" has a whole chapter devoted to it, and is not just dealt with as one of God's attributes?

Question 2: List some of the arguments that Creation took place in 6 literal days. What is your view on the time period of creation?

Question 3: Do you believe the theory of evolution is compatible with the Genesis account of Creation?

Question 4: Why is the doctrine of creation essential for modern man?



## Session 13: Creation of mankind

Read Chapter 4, paragraphs 2 and 3 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Based on the content of the Confession, comment on the recent debates in society about transgenderism.

Question 2: What does it mean to be made 'in the image of God'?

Question 3: Did Adam and Eve have a completely free will?

## Chapter 5: Providence

### Session 14: Providence

Read Chapter 5, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: What are the four activities of God in providence, and what does each mean? Give practical examples.

Question 2: Is it really credible to believe that God directs every raindrop?

Question 3: Why does the world seem to “run by itself” without direct divine intervention?

Question 4: Does God always use means in directing the universe? Explain.

## Session 15: Providence and sin

Read Chapter 5, paragraphs 4 and 5 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Did the fall of Adam and Eve into sin take God by surprise? Explain the relationship between the fall of man into sin, God's decree and God's providence.

Question 2: Is it correct to ONLY say that God allows sin?

Question 3: You are having a conversation with a young believer and you introduce the concept of God's decree and providence extending to all events, including sin. This young Christian expresses serious reservations regarding this. What could you say in relation to God's providence over sinful events? Find 2 biblical examples to illustrate what you are saying.

Question 4: Study paragraph 5 of the Confession carefully. What purposes could God have in letting believers fall into sin? Do God's providential dealings in this regard excuse the sins of believers?

## Session 16: Providence, sin and the church

Read Chapter 5, paragraphs 6 and 7 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Why did God harden Pharaoh? Was this act unjust? Explain.

Question 2: Read 2 Thess. 2:10-11. Explain the danger of people hearing the gospel, but saying they will believe later in life.

Question 3: Explain the special relationship between God's providence and the believer / church.

## Chapter 6: The Fall of Man into Sin

### Session 17: The nature and effects of The Fall

Read Chapter 6, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 Cof has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Some people say the essential nature of sin is self-centredness. Is this an adequate definition of sin? How does the Bible define sin?

Question 2: Romans 5:19 indicates that all people were made sinners through the fall of Adam. How can this be fair? Include in your answer the concept of "headship" or "representation".

Question 3: Romans 5:19 indicates that all people were made sinners through the fall of Adam. In what two important ways were people made sinners?

Question 4: What implications does this section of the Confession have on the status of newborn babies?

## Session 18: Sin in unbelievers and believers

Read Chapter 6, paragraphs 4 and 5 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Explain the concept of total depravity.

Question 2: What does “inability” mean as used in the Exposition?

Question 3: Based on this section of the Confession, must people believe in order to be born again, or must they be born again in order to believe?

Question 4: The Confession teaches that believers still have a sinful nature and commit acts of sin. Read Romans 6 and explain what then changes when someone becomes a believer.

## Chapter 7: God's Covenant

### Session 19: The covenants

Read Chapter 7, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: How would you respond to someone who says that people under the Old Covenant were saved by works, while under the New Covenant they are saved by faith? What Scriptures would you refer them to?

Question 2: Explain clearly how people under the Old Covenant were saved. Include in this explanation the role of the Holy Spirit and the role of "types".

Question 3: Read 2 Corinthians 3:7-9 and Hebrews 8:6-9. Explain why the Old Covenant was spoken of in these negative terms.

Question 4: Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Ezekiel 36:26-27. Explain why the New Covenant is superior to the Old Covenant.

## Chapter 8: Christ the Mediator

### Session 20: The incarnate Mediator between God and man

Read Chapter 8, paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 10 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 Cof has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: What is a mediator, and why do you need a mediator in your relationship with God?

Question 2: From paragraphs 1 and 10, list and briefly explain the roles of the Lord Jesus as the Mediator.

Question 3: From paragraph 1, describe the main work of Christ the Mediator. For whom was this work done?

Question 4: Many people in the world are confused about who Jesus is. How would you explain to someone what / who Jesus is? Make reference to His Person and nature(s).



## Session 21: The Nature and Extent of Redemption

Read Chapter 8, paragraphs 4 and 5 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: From paragraph 4, how would you explain to an unbelieving family member what Jesus did on the cross?

Question 2: When Jesus ascended into heaven, did he discard his body and return to His purely spiritual existence that He had before the incarnation? Explain.

Question 3: It is extremely common today for churches to teach that Jesus died for every single person. In fact, Christianity in general frowns on those who teach otherwise. How would you answer a Christian friend who thinks you belong to a weird church when he or she finds out that HBC believes the Bible teaches otherwise?

Question 4: Following on from your explanation in question 3, how would you understand passages such as Ezekiel 33:11 and Matthew 23:37?

## Session 22: The Application of the Work of the Mediator

Read Chapter 8, paragraphs 6, 7, 8 and 9 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 Cof has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: How were OT saints saved, seeing as Christ had not yet gone to the cross?

Question 2: How would you explain Mark 13:32?

Question 3: How effective was the work of Christ as the Mediator? What does this effectiveness extend to?

Question 4: You are speaking to a Roman Catholic family member who looks to Mary also as a "mediator". How would you respond?

## Chapter 9: Free Will

### Session 23: Free will

Read Chapter 9, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Explain how God has designed people in terms of their will and making choices.

Question 2: Did Adam and Eve have free will?

Question 3: How did The Fall impact on the will of man? Include in your answer the concepts of depravity, inability and natural liberty.

Question 4: Can sinful man still do good things?

## Session 24: Free will of believers before, and after glorification

Read Chapter 9, paragraphs 4 and 5 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Explain how regeneration changes the will of a person. Does it impact the will directly?

Question 2: If believers are new creations, (Gal. 5:24; 6:15) why do they still sin?

Question 3: If it is not possible for believers to sin in heaven, how can they be described as having complete free will?

## Chapter 10: Effectual Calling

### Session 25: Overview and understanding of Effectual calling

Read Chapter 10, paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Describe the two types of “calling” in the NT.

Question 2: So, what exactly is the effectual call? How does God call His elect to Himself?

Question 3: How active is man in the effectual call?

Question 4: Describe some of the ways the non-elect can respond to the outward call of the Word. Is it possible for them to be saved by these ways?

## Chapter 11: Justification

### Session 26: The nature and instrument of justification

Read Chapter 11, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 Cof has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: How important is the teaching on justification for the Christian faith?

Question 2: If you had to explain the nature of justification to a friend, what are the essential elements that you need to include? Explain each of these essential elements.

Question 3: A friend professes to be a Christian but is essentially living a life of disobedience and ungodliness. When you confront him, he claims to trust in Christ, and that God does not expect "perfection" from him. How would you respond to this person? In your response be sure to explain the instrument of justification, and what accompanies this instrument in the life of a Christian.

Question 4: From paragraph 3, explain the main two attributes of God that are demonstrated in the act of justification.

## Session 27: The timing and further understanding of justification

Read Chapter 11, paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 CofC has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: In a theological class at seminary, a student argues that if Christ died on the cross and paid the price for the sins of the elect almost 2000 years ago, they must be born justified in God's sight. How would you respond to this comment?

Question 2: How does God view and respond to the sins of His children?

Question 3: Some people teach that OT believers were justified through their obedience / works, while NT believers are justified by faith. How would you respond to this view? Which passages would you use to prove your view?

Question 4: The Roman Catholic Church teaches that people are justified by faith *and* works on the basis of James 2:21-24. How would you respond to this view?

## Chapter 12: Adoption

### Session 28: Adoption

Read Chapter 12, paragraph 1 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: You are speaking to someone from the New Age movement. They indicate that all people are “children of god”. How would you respond to them?

Question 2: Was it strictly necessary for God to adopt believers after their justification? Why did He do so?

Question 3: Why do believers naturally and instinctively feel that God is their Father?

Question 4: What is some of the evidence that a person is a true child of God?



## Chapter 13: Sanctification

### Session 29: Sanctification

Read Chapter 13, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Explain the two phases of sanctification. Are both instantaneous acts?

Question 2: How does sanctification differ from justification? Is it important to distinguish between the two?

Question 3: John Wesley believed it was possible for a believer to reach a stage of “perfectionism”. Do you agree with him? Which texts would you use to justify your view?

Question 4: Explain the concept of backsliding. In your explanation include whether you believe that backsliding in a true believer can be permanent, so that they essentially live a life characterized by sin.

## Chapter 14: Saving Faith

### Session 30: Saving faith

Read Chapter 14, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: You are speaking to someone who rejects the doctrine of election because they know that they consciously believed in Christ themselves. How would you explain the Reformed faith to them in terms of the gift of faith?

Question 2: What are the two main instruments that create saving faith in a person?

Question 3: Explain the three main acts of saving faith as described in paragraph 2.

Question 4: You are speaking to a Christian, and they say their friend “lost their faith”. How would you respond to this statement?

## Chapter 15: Repentance

### Session 31: The nature of repentance

Read Chapter 15, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Some people teach that it is possible for someone to be a “carnal Christian”, meaning that they have faith in Christ, but have not yet repented of their sins. How would you respond to this teaching? Make sure that you answer the following questions in your explanation:

- (i) Is it possible to have faith without repentance?
- (ii) Are there some people who don't need to repent?
- (iii) Is repentance essential for salvation?

Question 2: You are discipling a young Christian, and they confess to you that they have fallen into a terrible sin. They are feeling guilty and unworthy. What would you counsel them to do?

Question 3: Explain exactly what repentance is. Include in your explanation the various aspects of repentance.

## Session 32: Repentance in the life of a believer

Read Chapter 15, paragraphs 4 and 5 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Study paragraph 4 carefully. Reflect on your devotional life, and comment on the following:

- (i) Does repentance feature regularly in your spiritual walk with God?
- (ii) How do you deal with sin specifically in your life?

Question 2: Read paragraph 5 carefully, and comment on the dangers of becoming a seeker-sensitive church.

Question 3: You are speaking to someone, and they confess that they have been living in misery for the last month as they fear they have committed an unforgivable sin. What would you say to them?

## Chapter 16: Good Works

### Session 33: Definition and role of good works

Read Chapter 16, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 Cof has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: How does the Bible regulate good works?

Question 2: Explain the relationship between faith and works.

Question 3: Explain the value of good works in the life of a believer.

Question 4: You meet a Christian who believes that they must seek the active direction of the Holy Spirit for every action that they take in their lives. Use paragraph 3 to help this person understand the relationship between the Holy Spirit and good works in the life of a believer.

## Session 34: Understanding good works in believers and unbelievers

Read Chapter 16, paragraphs 4 to 7 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Explain the Roman Catholic doctrine of Supererogation. How would you respond to such a doctrine?

Question 2: You are speaking to someone who believes that they can get to heaven by doing good works, or at least earn rewards from God for their good works. How would you respond to this view?

Question 3: Does your response to question 2 above mean that the good works of believers are therefore worthless to God? Explain how paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Confession complement each other.

Question 4: You are speaking to an unbeliever who is bragging about how much good they do. Explain to them how God views their good works.

## Chapter 17: Perseverance of the Saints

### Session 35: Understanding perseverance of the saints

Read Chapter 17, paragraphs 1 to 3 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Study paragraph 1 carefully. You are speaking to a young Christian and want to explain the doctrine of perseverance accurately to them. Provide an outline of the main points you need to make to them (with a Scripture for each of the points you are making). Include any qualifications you would make when explaining the doctrine.

Question 2: List and explain briefly the foundations of the perseverance of the saints. (There are quite a few foundations). Why is it that they cannot finally fall away?

Question 3: You are leading a Bible study session and need to explain the issue of backsliding (of true believers) to those attending. Write a brief outline of the points you would make. Include responses to the following questions:

- What are some of the causes of backsliding?
- What will believers experience during backsliding?
- How far can true believers backslide?
- How are they brought back and restored?

## Chapter 18: Assurance of Salvation

### Session 36: The nature and source of assurance of salvation

Read Chapter 18, paragraphs 1 and 2 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Some denominations and religions like Islam teach that people can never truly know whether they are saved or not. They believe this would be presumptuous. What would it be like to live the Christian life without knowing if you are truly saved or not? How would a lack of assurance of salvation impact your walk with the Lord?

Question 2: Is assurance of salvation just a sense that I have a high probability of being saved?

Question 3: Explain the three pillars of assurance of salvation. What is the danger if you leave any one of the pillars out? The exposition also mentions a fourth pillar. How does it fit in with the three main pillars?



## Session 37: The importance and vulnerability of assurance of salvation

Read Chapter 18, paragraphs 3 and 4 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Can someone be a true believer and not have assurance of faith? Explain using Scripture references.

Question 2: List some of the benefits of assurance of salvation from paragraph 3.

Question 3: How would you respond to someone who says that if people have assurance of salvation, it will make them complacent and negligent with regard to spiritual duties?

Question 4: Explain some of the reasons why believers may not have assurance of salvation.

## Chapter 19: The Law of God

### Session 38: The different types of law in the Old Testament

Read Chapter 19, paragraphs 1 to 4 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Explain and define the categories of moral, ceremonial and judicial laws.

Question 2: Do you believe the Ten Commandments are a summary of God's moral law? Are there any qualifications to be made?

Question 3: There is a movement today which encourages Christians to go back to the Hebrew roots of the OT, and to, for example, celebrate the festivals and even do some of the sacrifices. How would you respond to this movement?

Question 4: In Reformed circles there is a theological position called "Theonomy", which teaches that Christians should try and introduce many of the OT judicial laws into the laws of the country. How would you respond to this position?

## Session 39: The Law and the believer

Read Chapter 19, paragraphs 5 to 7 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: You meet someone who claims to be a Christian but is living with his girlfriend. When you confront him, he indicates that Christians are not under the Law, but under grace. How would you respond, and what key passages would you refer him to?

Question 2: Explain the relationship between the New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-33) and the Law. Is the New Covenant opposed to the Law of God?

Question 3: Should the Law of God be preached in churches today? How should the Law of God be applied to believers? In other words, what are the positive benefits of the Law for believers?

Question 4: Is the Law of God compatible with the gospel? Explain the role of the Law in preaching the gospel.

## Chapter 20: The Gospel

### Session 40: The gospel

Read Chapter 20, paragraphs 1 to 4 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: What is the essence of the gospel, and how has this been revealed throughout the ages?

Question 2: Do people have to hear the gospel in order to be saved? Could they be saved in some other way?

Question 3: Why have some nations been blessed with the proclamation of the gospel, and other groups have never even heard of the name of Christ? Explain, using the concepts of God's sovereignty, God's decree and the revealed and secret will of God.

Question 4: Explain the role of the Holy Spirit when the gospel is preached. If the Holy Spirit is inactive when the gospel is preached, will people be saved?

## Chapter 21: Christian Liberty and Liberty of Conscience

### Session 41: Liberty explained

Read Chapter 21, paragraphs 1 to 3 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: You are doing door-to-door evangelism and start speaking to someone who says they don't want to become a Christian because they will lose their freedom. How would you respond to this? Include in your response what the Bible teaches about spiritual slavery.

Question 2: How were the freedoms of the OT saints expanded under the NT?

Question 3: Many of the cult leaders or even extreme charismatic church leaders require implicit acceptance of their teachings. How do these leaders betray the freedoms purchased by the Lord Jesus Christ for His children?

Question 4: Does biblical Christian freedom promote a sinful lifestyle?

## Chapter 22: Worship and the Sabbath Day

### Session 42: Worship in general

Read Chapter 22, paragraphs 1 to 3 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Explain the two different approaches that Christians have adopted as to how Scripture regulates worship. Do these two approaches make a practical difference? Give examples from the different denominational practices you are aware of.

Question 2: Why do we need a mediator to worship God? What does our Mediator do?

Question 3: You are discipling a new believer, and he or she asks about how to pray properly. Provide a summary for him or her from the description of true prayer found in paragraphs 3 and 4.

## Session 43: The elements, place and day of worship

Read Chapter 22, paragraphs 4 to 8 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: What are the essential elements of NT worship? Do you think HBC is missing any elements?

Question 2: Are cathedrals particularly holy and make worship more holy and significant?

Question 3: According to paragraph 6, how should worship feature in your life?

Question 4: Read through paragraphs 7 and 8. Give a short explanation of your view of the Sabbath / Lord's day debate. Which Scripture references do you believe support your view?

## Chapter 23: Lawful Oaths

### Session 44: Oaths and vows

Read Chapter 23, paragraphs 1 to 5 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: What is the difference between a vow and an oath? Give examples of modern oaths and VOWS.

Question 2: The Anabaptists and even some early Baptists refused to take vows at all based on Matthew 5:33-37 and James 5:12. Do you agree with them?

Question 3: When, and how should oaths and vows be used? Have you used any?

Question 4: List and explain why some of the vows required by the Roman Catholic church must be viewed as sinful.



## Chapter 24: Civil Government

### Session 45: Civil government

Read Chapter 24, paragraphs 1 to 3 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Explain the authority structure between God, the church and the civil government.

Question 2: You are visiting a friend in London and they mention that the Archbishop of Canterbury is appointed by the Prime Minister. Do you believe this is correct? How would you explain to him or her the role of civil government, according to the Bible?

Question 3: Provide an outline of how believers should respond to the government in their land. In doing so, answer the following questions:

- (i) Are there types of governments that are exempt?
- (ii) Are there laws that are exempt?

Question 4: Should a Christian government, using the argument that it should protect its citizens from dangerous errors, ban cults and false religions such as Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Islam etc?

## Chapter 25: Marriage

### Session 46: Marriage

Read Chapter 25, paragraphs 1 to 4 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: There are some sects today who believe that it is legitimate for husbands to have more than one wife, based on the examples of Abraham and David. How would you explain God's pattern for marriage? Include in your explanation what exactly marriage is.

Question 2: Why did God design and give marriage to the human race?

Question 3: One of your children, who professes to be a believer, starts to date an unbeliever, and soon expresses a desire to marry him or her. What would your counsel be? What texts would you use?

Question 4: Based on the recent debates in society regarding same-sex marriages, and also based on the concerns of paragraph 4, list and explain examples of unlawful marriages. Can these marriages be legitimized through both parties' consent?

## Chapter 26: The Church

### Session 47: The universal church

Read Chapter 26, paragraphs 1 to 4 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Explain the concepts of:

- (i) The universal church vs the local church
- (ii) The invisible church vs the visible church

Question 2: Who should be allowed to be members of local, visible churches?

Question 3: Will the church ever be completely destroyed on the earth in this age? How do you understand particular local churches which deteriorate into spiritual lifelessness and have lost the gospel?

Question 4: Who is the Head of the universal church? Comment on the claims of the Pope.

## Session 48: The purpose, membership, authority and government of the local church

Read Chapter 26, paragraphs 5 to 8 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: You meet someone who professes to be Christian, but is not attending or involved with a local church. What does paragraph 5 have to say about this? Do you believe paragraph 5 is an overstatement? How does the paragraph compare to HBC's high view of church membership?

Question 2: What are the main functions of a local church? Do you believe HBC is effectively carrying out all these functions?

Question 3: HBC does not have a Pope, council, archbishop or synod presiding over it. So where does HBC get the authority to fulfill its mandate?

Question 4: You meet a member of a denomination that has archbishops, bishops, local elders and deacons. HBC has a church government consisting of a plurality of elders and appointed servants. Review the Scripture references and comment on the two different types of government.

## Session 49: The functioning of the local church and inter-church relations

Read Chapter 26, paragraphs 9 to 15 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Explain the duty of the church towards elders in general, and towards the full-time elders in particular.

Question 2: Explain the importance and aim of church discipline.

Question 3: Should HBC be concerned about other local churches? Why or why not?

Question 4: HBC is currently a member of Sola 5. Would the authors of the Confession have supported such a membership? What are the aims and restrictions of such a membership?

## Chapter 27: Communion of the Saints

### Session 50: The communion of the saints

Read Chapter 27, paragraphs 1 to 2 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: It has often been reported that when believers attend different churches and meet Christians even from other nations, they immediately feel a spiritual bond. How would you explain this?

Question 2: List and explain the internal and external duties and obligations that arise from believers' unions with each other.

Question 3: Are believers only to be concerned with the spiritual needs of the people in their congregation? What should their attitude be towards those who are not formal members?

Question 4: The Bible has often been used to justify some forms of communism. How would you respond to this? What Scripture references would you use in your response?

## Chapters 28 and 29: Baptism

### Session 51: Baptism

Read Chapter 28 and Chapter 29, paragraphs 1 to 4 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Explain what baptism signifies.

Question 2: You are speaking with a member of a sect who states that baptism is necessary for salvation on the basis of 1 Peter 3:21. How would you respond to them?

Question 3: You are discussing baptism with a Presbyterian brother or sister. Provide an outline (with Scripture references) of how you would defend believer's baptism.

## Chapter 30: The Lord's Supper

### Session 52: The Lord's Supper

Read Chapter 30, paragraphs 1 to 8 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: Explain the main purposes of the Lord's Supper.

Question 2: Comment on the Roman Catholic view that the Lord Jesus is actually sacrificed every time the Mass is celebrated. Which Scriptures would you use to support your view? How important is this issue?

Question 3: You are speaking to a Roman Catholic family member who believes the bread and wine actually become the physical body and blood of Christ. How would you respond to them?

Question 4: Do you think it is important to issue a warning when we celebrate the Lord's Supper at HBC?



## Chapter 31: Death and the Resurrection

### Session 53: Death and resurrection

Read Chapter 31, paragraphs 1 to 8 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 Cof has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: What happens to the souls of believers and unbelievers when they die?

Question 2: According to the Confession, what will happen on the last day? Describe the events using Scripture references.

Question 3: Describe the resurrection bodies of believers.

## Chapter 32: The Last Judgement

### Session 54: Last Judgement

Read Chapter 32, paragraphs 1 to 3 with the explanation, and answer the following questions. The Exposition of the 1689 COF has all the answers to these questions, together with the Scripture references.

Question 1: What groups will be judged on the last day, and how will each group be judged?

Question 2: What is the goal of the last judgement?

Question 3: Some theologians today reject the concept of eternal punishment in hell, opting rather for some form of annihilationism. Comment on this position.

Question 4: Why is it crucial to believe and preach the last judgement?