Conscientious Confessionalism:  
Foundation to Worship

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I. Why some do not want to be confessional Baptists
   a. Events

   b. Only the Bible is authoritative and they usurp the place of the Bible.

   c. Some Baptists have seen creeds as “instruments of cruelty” used by state churches

   d. To mask their disbelief of foundational doctrines contained in the confessions

   e. Recent Festschrift

II. Principles
   a. Truth as opposed to error
      1. Jesus’ concern for truth
      2. Falling into heresy is leaving the truth. 2 Timothy 2:17, 18
      3. Regeneration is from the truth. – James 1:18
      4. Apostolic witness – 1 John 4:5, 6
   b. Truth call for careful articulation and distinguishing one thing from another
      1. Gospel more than just a word – Galatians 1:6-9
      2. Gospel and Christ must be defined. – 2 Cor. 11:2-4
      3. What is the relationship between eternal life that comes from justification and eternal life as connected with sanctification? Romans 5:2-, 21; 6:1,2, 21-23
      4. Truth opposed to myths and human speculations – Titus 1:10-14
   c. Truth is coherent, synthetic, and systematic.
   d. Truth is saving.

III. Biblical examples of confessions both for witness and worship.
   a. Deuteronomy 6:4ff
   b. Matthew 16
   c. 1 Timothy 1:15
   d. 1 Timothy 3:16
   e. 1 Timothy 4:9, 10
   f. 2 Timothy 1:8-14
   g. 2 Timothy 2:11
   h. Philippians 2:5-11
   i. 1 John 4:2ff
   j. Revelations 4:8, 11; 5:9, 12-14

The original title for this lecture was "Credo in symbola non utenda: The Troubling Position of a Non-Confessional Baptist."