

Questions for Further Reflection – The Scots Confession

1. How is the theme of God's promise of grace tied together in what the Scots Confession says about the Church and the Sacraments? Have you ever before considered how God's grace is made manifest in this way? Is this theme helpful for your understanding of your faith? Why or why not?
2. Even though the Scots Confession says that women should not preach or baptize (see Chapter XXII, 3rd sentence) our denomination allows women to do both. Indeed, one of our later confessions, A Brief Statement of Faith, says the Spirit "calls women and men to all ministries of the church." How does the Scots Confession *itself* support and uphold this change in viewpoint? (Hint: See Chapter 20)
3. What new addition to our understanding of the purpose and nature of the church did Pastor Tim say the Scots Confession gives us? Why is this important? How is this relevant to our church today?
4. How does the Scots Confession understand civil authority under God? How do you think Presbyterians with a Scottish heritage in America were able to reconcile their support for the American Revolution with the Scots Confession 200 years later?
5. Pastor Tim said the Reformed doctrine of election was meant to be comforting. Yet today, many Christians find it very uncomfortable and hard to affirm. Why do you think this is? What is different about our context that causes us to push back on the idea that we don't have a say in our own salvation? Based on Scripture and the Scots Confession, how can the choice between God's election and our freedom to choose be seen as a both/and, rather than an either/or?