

Belgic Confession, Article 1: "Introduction to the Belgic and the Nature of God"

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 45

Lesson Aim	To understand two things: First, to understand the history of the Belgic Confession of Faith and second, what the Scriptures teach regarding God's attributes of uniqueness, simplicity and spirituality.
Steps to Learning	Read the Belgic Confession of Faith, Article 1 and Isaiah 45. Also discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	<p>What is the history of the Belgic Confession of Faith? It was written in 1561 by Guido de Bres with the help of three men. Guido de Bres wrote the confession to Philip II of Spain as a defense of the church's practice in the Netherlands. At the Synod of Dort (met in the years of 1618-1619) the Belgic Confession became a part of the Three Forms of Unity, which included the Heidelberg Catechism and the Canons of Dort.</p> <p>What are the six parts of the Belgic Confession? Doctrine of God (1-13), Doctrine of Man (14-15), Doctrine of Christ (16-21), Doctrine of Salvation (22-26), Doctrine of the Church (27-36), Doctrine of the End (37).</p> <p>What is the uniqueness of God? The uniqueness of God refers to the fact that there is only one God (see Deuteronomy 6:4). God is the sole creator, all powerful and holy; all other alleged gods are false. Also, he is one divine essence, which is not composite; he does not have a soul or body or any corporeal features.</p> <p>What is the simplicity of God? By this attribute we do not mean that God is simple in the sense of non-complicated or simple in purpose. We are rather referring to what God is most essentially, what his essence or divine nature is. God is in the condition of being free from division into parts and is not susceptible to division. All of God's varied attributes (e.g. holiness, goodness, justice, etc.) are equal to God's essence. Therefore, we cannot say that God is a God of love and not a God of wrath; he is both.</p> <p>What is the spirituality of God? This means that God is a spiritual being unlike us. He is infinite, unchangeable, omnipotent, and omnipresent filling heavens and earth. Also, God relates to his people by the power of the Holy Spirit.</p>
Bible Reading	Exodus 8-14 (Reading the great stories of the Old Testament)