



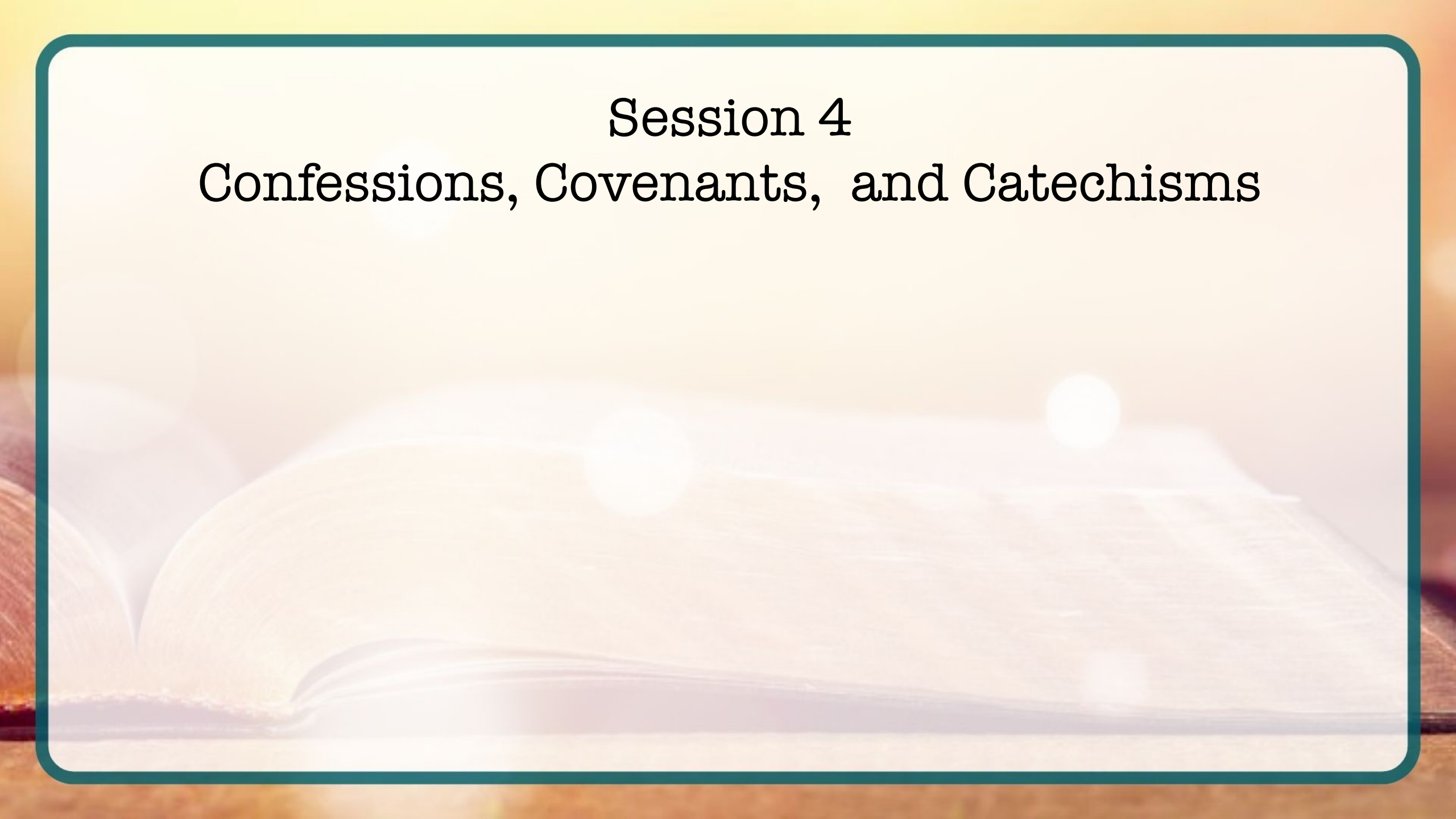
FIRST BAPTIST
MERIDIANVILLE
REAL. FAMILY.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

THE
BAPTIST
FAITH &
MESSAGE
2000

Session 4

Confessions, Covenants, and Catechisms



Creeds articulate in whom we believe.

- They focus on the essential nature of the Godhead.
- Creeds define first level issues.
 - To not agree with creedal confessions is to be heretical in faith.

Confessions articulate how we practice what we believe.

Creeds are like saying the pledge of allegiance.



Creeds are like saying the pledge of allegiance.
Confessions are like referencing the Constitution.



Baptist are a Confessional People.

Baptist Distinctives Concerning Confessions

Congregational Autonomy

Confessions not Creeds

Priesthood of All Believers

Cooperative Congregations

Purpose of Confessions

Define Cooperation

- Here is what we can do together for the Kingdom!



Purpose of Confessions

Define Cooperation

- Here is what we can do together for the Kingdom!

1 Corinthians 1:10 "I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment".

Purpose of Confessions

Define Cooperation

Encourage Unity

- Here is how we can stay together to impact the world for the Gospel.

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- Here is how we can stay together to impact the world for the Gospel.

Philippians 2:2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

Purpose of Confessions

Define Cooperation

Encourage Unity

Guard the Truth

- Here is the standard of belief and practice to preserve and propagate.

Purpose of Confessions

Guard the Truth

1 Timothy 6:20-21

"O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called 'knowledge,' for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. Grace be with you."

Purpose of Confessions

Define Cooperation

Encourage Unity

Guard the Truth

Provide Boundaries

- Here is what is acceptable and not acceptable for cooperation.

Purpose of Confessions

Provide Boundaries

2 Timothy 2:14-15 "Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."



Provide Boundaries

- Confessions Act as Guardrails!



Purpose of Confessions

Define Cooperation

Encourage Unity

Guard the Truth

Provide Boundaries

Define Discipline / Disfellowship

- Such a determination is not arbitrary but well established and understood.

A Question for All Confessions

How Wide are Your Guardrails for Cooperation?



fine art
america

A Question for All Confessions

How Big is Your Tent?



Early European Baptist Confessions

Particular Baptist Confessions

The First London Baptist Confession of Faith (1644)

The First London Baptist Confession of Faith (1646 revision)

Standard Confession (1660)

The Second London Confession (1689)

Philadelphia Confession of Faith (1742)

A Comparison of Three Particular Baptist Statements of Faith: True Confession (1596), The First London Confession (1644), and The First London Confession (1646 revision)

General Baptist Confessions

A Short Confession of Faith in Twenty Articles

Smyth's Short Confession of Faith (1610)

Helwys' Declaration of Faith of English People Remaining in Amsterdam (1611)

Propositions and Conclusions Concerning the True Christian Religion

The Faith and Doctrines of 30 Congregations (1651)

Standard Confession (1660)

General Association Articles of Faith (1870)

A Comparison of Four General Baptist Statements of Faith: Smyth's Short Confession (1610), Helwys' Declaration of Faith (1611), The Faith and Doctrines of 30 Congregations (1651), and the Standard Confession (1660)

Early Baptist Confession in America

The Philadelphia Confession (1742) P

The Sandy Creek Confession (1816) G

The New Hampshire Confession (1833) P/G

The Sandy Creek Confession (1845) G

Treatise on the Faith and Practice of Free Will Baptists
(1834, 1948) G

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Baptist Faith and Message 1925