

- b. The impact of circumstance
- c. Ecclesiastical pronouncements
- d. Necessity of the statements
- e. The intended ideal: The statement will reflect the teaching of the Bible and the belief of the confessing community.

5. Sources of Doctrinal Confusion

- a. Misunderstanding
- b. Academic preferment
- c. Interpretating backgrounds
(including perspective)
- d. Incompletion of needed data..but who will wait to get all the data before offering a conclusion.
- e. Doctrine and hermeneutics

B. **Essential Expressions of Christian Faith**

1. The Earliest Statements:

a. Personal tests:

- Paul 1 Cor 13: 3
- John 1 Jn 4: 2-3
- Thomas Jn 20: 28
- Peter Mt 16: 16

You may wonder about these but they are short, pointed, and allow for very little equivocation.

b. Siglia:

- the cross!
- the fish

and there are others...