

THREE FORMS OF UNITY: THE CANONS OF DORDT

Introductory Remarks

- A. The Committee took as basis for a new translation De Nederlandse Belijdenisgeschriften In Authentieke Teksten. Met Inleiding en Tekstvergelijkingen door J. N. Bakhuizen van den Brink, 2nd ed. (Amsterdam: Ton Bolland, 1976).
In the case of the Canons the original texts are at the same time the authentic texts, nl. the Latin and Dutch texts established by the Synod of Dordrecht 1619.

We gratefully used A New English Translation of the Canons of Dort by Anthony A. Hoekema, reprinted from the November, 1968, issue of the Calvin Theological Journal. This translation has been made directly from the Latin text. Our Committee, however, used the Dutch text not only as an official commentary on and interpretation of the Latin text, but as of equal authenticity. We also took into consideration the present English text, because it obtained an ecclesiastical character in the Canadian Reformed Churches as the text to which office-bearers subscribe.

Our method therefore differed from that of the Committee for Doctrinal and Liturgical Forms which reported to General Synod Coaldale 1977 that "in most (not all) cases where the present English version follows the Latin rather than the Dutch, is followed" *the Dutch*. Our Committee gave equal weight to the Latin and the Dutch texts and decided each case on its merits.

- B. We went further than Dr. A. A. Hoekema in breaking up long sentences into shorter ones. In his line an attempt has been made to find modern equivalents for archaic or obsolete words and expressions. The subheadings were not part of the official text; they should be printed in italics.
- C. The Committee made a few changes. In I 6 we took away the reference to Acts 15:18 on the basis of newer Bible Translations. In I 7 we placed "in Christ" with "chosen" in agreement with the Latin and Dutch texts.

Because the reader himself can compare the proposed new translation with the present English text, we did not indicate the stylistic changes.

For the Committee,

J. Faber, Reporter.

June 1979.

JF/gv

1983
16^u