

Art 60

(Agenda C, 2, a)

C 2 a

Report of the Committee for the Doctrinal and Liturgical Forms, to the General Synod of the Canadian Reformed Churches, Coaldale, Alta, November '77.

Esteemed Assembly, Dear Brothers:

1977

Your Committee received from the General Synod Toronto 1974 the following mandate:

15a

"To scrutinize the text of the Doctrinal and Liturgical Forms as to correctness of translation from the, by Synod 1954 adopted, Dutch Version, the latter compared with the original languages (N.B. The Heidelberg Catechism is excepted from this mandate)."

(10 pages)

Synod Toronto 1974 appointed in the Committee as members the Rev. Messrs. R.F. Boersema and D. DeJong, and the brothers C. Bosch and D. DeRuiter.

In our first Committee-meeting it was decided to divide the work as follows: Belgic Confession by Rev. D. DeJong; Canons of Dort by Rev. R.F. Boersema; Liturgical Forms by brs. C. Bosch and D. DeRuiter.

Belgic Confession

The proposed corrections are basically the same as prepared by the Committee for the Second Half of the Church Book, appointed by the G.S. of New Westminster 1971. A few changes have been made, while quotations from the Scriptures were left in the translation as used in the present text of the Belgic Confession. Our report does not include the corrections decided on already by G.S. 1962. For these corrections we refer to Art. 134 of that Synod.

Canons of Dort

We have tried to limit ourselves to correcting only those words or passages which clearly did not render the original in what it intended to confess. It appeared quite often that the English translation was based more on the Latin rendering than on the Dutch text, which fact made it sometimes difficult to decide where to make corrections or to leave the English as it is.

Liturgical Forms

Here your Committee ran into difficulties due to the great demands made on the brs. C. Bosch and D. DeRuiter for their daily vocations, which rendered it practically impossible for them to spend time on the work of our Committee. Besides this - but also prompted by this - , the question arose whether it made good sense to engage in this work and to spend much time and energy on it. Most of the Liturgical Forms are used regularly in the church-services. For this reason it is very urgent that not just some translation-corrections are made, but that these Forms as soon as possible are re-translated in present-day-English. As a result of these circumstances and considerations *has come to the conclusion that it was not only unable to fulfill this part of its mandate, but that it also would be better to recommend to the General Synod that another Committee be appointed with the mandate to re-translate the Liturgical Forms into present-day-English.

- We also recommend that all Scripture-quotations (both direct and indirect) in all the Forms be changed in accordance with the Revised Standard Version.

Herewith submitting the results of our work, together with the above-mentioned recommendations, to you, With brotherly greetings,

The Committee for the Doctrinal and Liturgical Forms,

*the Committee

R.F. Boersema

D. DeJong (convener)

C. Bosch

D. DeRuiter

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Proposed corrections in the translation of the BELGIC CONFESSION as published in the BOOK OF PRAISE, pages 359-388

(Introductory remark: The texts are used which are published in "Belijden naar het Woord", I, Nederlandsche Geloofsbelijdenis, by Lepusculus Vallensis, Uitgave van de Stichting voor Gereformeerde Publicaties, Zwolle, 1951.

The following abbreviations are used: F = French, D = Dutch, L = Latin)

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- Art. 2, line 3 replace 'most elegant' by 'beautiful'
F: un beau livre D: een schoon boek
line 5 replace 'everlasting' by 'eternal'
F: éternelle
heading replace 'is made known unto us' by 'is known by us'
D: van ons gekend wordt
- Art. 4, line 3 replace 'thus named' by 'counted as follows'
F: le nombre en est tel D: Deze worden aldus geteld
line 8 replace 'commonly' by 'also'
F: dits P. D: genaamd P. L: qui P. dicuntur
line 13 replace 'lesser' by 'minor'
line 16 replace 'Testaments' by 'Testament'
line 24 replace 'to' by 'of'
F: de D: van L: Ioannis Apostoli
- Art. 7 heading replace 'WHOLE' by "HOLY"
D: Heilige
- Art. 8 line 2 leave out! 'the'
F: une seule Essence D: een enig wezen L: unica essentia
- Art.11 line 6 leave out: 'the' (before 'true')
FDL: without article
- Art.12 line 6 replace 'mankind' by 'man'
FDL
line 16 replace 'all' by 'everything'
F: tout D: alles L: omnia
- Art.13 line 5 replace 'appointment' by 'ordaining it'
F: ordonnance D: ordinantie L. ordinatione
line 15 replace 'had' by 'has'
- Art.14 line 5 replace 'knew' by 'acknowledged'
F: recognu D: erkend L: cognovit
line 13 replace 'only small remains' by 'nothing but small traces'
F: ne luy est demeurî de reste sinon des petites traces
D: niets anders overig behouden dan kleine overblijfselen
L: vestigia

corrections Belgic Confession, page 2

- Art.16 line 2 replace 'our first parents' by 'the first man'
FDL
- line 4 replace 'preserves' by 'saves'
F: retirant et sauvant D: trekt en verlost
L: liberando et servando
- line 6 replace 'Christ Jesus' by 'Jesus Christ'
FDL
- Art.17 line 1 leave out 'most'
F: bon D: goed Only L has: benignissimum
- line 4 replace 'was pleased to seek and comfort him'
by 'went out to seek him'
- line 5 replace 'promising him' by 'and comforted him by promising'
- line 6 add 'him' (between 'give' and 'His', reading: 'that He
would give him His Son')
- line 6 replace brackets () by comma's ,.....,
- line 7 add ', Gen.3:15,' (after 'serpent')
F: s'est luy mesme mis a le chercher, lorsqu'il s'enfuycit
de luy tout tremblant, et l'a console luy faisant promesse
de luy donner son Fils fait de femme pour briser la teste
du serpent, et le faire bienheureux
D: zichzelf begeven heeft om hem te zoeken, toen hij al
bevende voor Hem vlood, en heeft hem getroost, belovende
hem Zijnen Zoon te geven, die worden zou uit ene vrouw, om
den kop der slang te vermorzelen, Gen.3:15, en hem geluk-
zalig te maken
E is basically translation from L.
- Art.19 line 12 replace 'for as much as' by 'since'
F: attendu que D: dewijl
- line 21 leave out 'so clearly'
- line 22 add 'as such' (between 'itself' and 'for', to read: 'though
it did not manifest itself as such for a while')
F: combien que pour un peu de temps elle ne se demonstra
pas ainsi D: hoewel zij zich voor een kleine tijd zo
niet openbaarde L: etsi ad exiguum tempus sese ita non
exereret
- line 23 replace 'by His power to conquer death' by 'in order to
conquer death by His power'
F: pour vaincre la mort par sa puissance
D: om door Zijn kracht de dood te overwinnen
L: ut mortem sua potentia vinceret
- Art.20 line 3 replace 'to make satisfaction in the same, and to'
by 'that in the same He might make satisfaction and'
F: pour en icelle porter la punition du peche par la tres-
rigoureuse mort et passion d'iceluy
D: om in haar te voldoen en te dragen de straf der zonden
- line 8 leave out comme ', ' (between 'love' and 'giving')
FDL

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corrections Belgic Confession, page 3

Art.21 line 22/3 replace ', in whose wounds we find all manner of consolation. Neither is it necessary' by '. We find all manner of consolation in His wounds, and do not need'

F: nous trouvons toutes consolations en ses playes, et n'avons besoin de chercher

D: Wij vinden allerlei vertroosting in Zijn wonden, en hebben niet van nood L: E is translation of L.

Art.22 line 1 replace 'attain' by 'obtain'

F: obtenir

line 2 replace 'upright' by 'true'

F: vraie D: ware L: verum

line 17 replace 'had' by 'has'

line 19 replace 'in communion with Him in all His benefits' by 'with Him in the communion of all His benefits'

F: qui nous tient avec luy en la communion de tous ses biens D: dat ons met Hem in de gemeenschap aller Zijner goederen houdt L: quo nos cum illo in communione omnium bonorum ejus retinemur

line 20 add 'have' (between 'they' and 'become')

FDL (D: de onze geworden zijnde)

Art.23 line 1 replace 'salvation' by 'blessedness'

F: beatitude D: gelukzaligheid L: beatitudinem

line 9 leave out 'ourselves before Him'

FD E is translation from L

line 13 replace 'becomes' by 'is'

FDL

line 19 replace 'though ever so little' by 'though for a little bit even' (reason: 'little' should not be connected with 'creature', but with 'relying')

F: estans appuyez tant peu que ce soit sur nous,
D: steunende op ..., hoeweinig het ook ware
L: si nobis ipsis aut ulli creaturae vel tantillum innitentem

line 20 replace 'pray' by 'say'

F: dire D: zeggen

Art.24 line 6 replace 'remiss' by 'grow cold'

F: refroidisse D: zou doen verkouden L: tepidiores efficiat (cf. Matth.24:12)

line 8 replace 'or' by 'and'

FD

line 9 replace 'unfruitful' by 'idle'

F: oyseuse D: ledig L: otiosa

corrections Belgic Confession, page 5

line 13 replace 'do not belong to the Church'
by 'are not of the Church'

FDL, and art.29 where this expression is also found.
'Belong to' can create misunderstanding.

Art.29 line 3 add 'today' (after 'world')

FDL

line 4 replace 'But we speak not here'
by 'Here we do not speak'

FDL

line 4 add 'the group of' (before 'hypocrites')

F: la compagnie des D: het gezelschap der L: coetys

line 27 replace 'our Lord Jesus Christ' by 'the Lord Jesus'

FDL

line 32 replace 'appointed' by 'instituted'

compare line 11/12

line 36 replace 'errors' by 'crimes'

F: vices D: gebreken L: vitia Scripture-reference to
Revel. 17:3 shows that 'gebroken' or 'errors' is too weak.

line 37 replace 'are easily known' by 'can easily be recognized'

F: sont aisees a cognoistre L: Ex his igitur facile
est utramque Ecclesiam cognoscere

Art.31 line 11 replace 'Christ' by 'Jesus Christ'

FD

Art.34 line 36 add 'either' (after 'twice')

F: aussi ne D: ook niet L: ne quidem

line 52 replace 'Jews' by 'Jewish nation'

FDL

Art.35 line 39/41 replace 'Thus, then, though Christ always sits at the
right hand of His Father in the heavens, yet does
He not therefore cease' by

'Thus, then, Christ always remains seated at the
right hand of His Father in the heavens, and yet
does not therefore cease'

FDL

line 49 add a comma: 'signified, nevertheless'

Art.36 line 2 replace 'appointed' by 'instituted'

FDL

line 3/4 replace 'certain laws and policies' by 'laws and
law-enforcement'

F: loix et polices D: wetten en politieen
L: legibus et certa politia

line 6 leave out 'and decency'

FDL

corrections Belgic Confession, page 6

Art.36 line 9/10 replace 'to have regard unto and watch for [the welfare of] the civil state' ([the welfare of] has been removed by G.S.1962,Acts Art.184) by 'to see to it that the laws are maintained'

F: de prendre garde et veiller sur la police
D: acht te nemen en te waken over de Politie
L: ut non modo curam gerant et pro conservanda politia excubent

line 11 replace 'prevent' by 'do away with'

F: ruiner D: uitroeien L: evertant

line 14/5 replace 'promoted. They must therefore countenance the preaching of the Word of the gospel everywhere, that' by 'promoted, and the Word of the gospel caused to be preached everywhere; sothat'

F: et avancer le royaume de Iesus Christ, faire prêcher la parole de l'Evangile par tout, afin que
D: het Koninkrijk van Iesus Christus te doen vorderen, het Woord des Evangelies overal te doen prediken, opdat God

line 28 leave out 'and good order'

FDL

Art.37 line 1 replace 'tot' by 'to'

line 22 replace 'hypocrisy' by 'hypocrisies'

FDL

line 26 replace 'deliverance' by 'redemption'

F: redemption L: redemptio

line 28 replace 'known to' by 'acknowledged by'

F: cogneuc de tous D: zal door allen bekend worden
L: ab omnibus agnoscetur

Proposed corrections in the translation of the CANONS OF DORT as published in the BOOK OF PRAISE, pages 428-466

(Introductory remark: The Dutch text is used as published in the Acts of the National Synod of Dort 1613/19, edition DenHertog's Uitgeverij en Boekhandel, Utrecht, and the Latin text as published in Schaff, The Creeds of Christendom, Vol.III. In most (not all) cases where the present English version follows the Latin rather than the Dutch the Dutch is followed.)

Chapter I

- Art. 4 line 2 Add 'John 3:36; Mark 16:16' (after 'gospel')
- 6 line 1/2 Replace 'That some receive the gift of faith from God, and others do not receive it' by 'That God in time confers the gift of faith on some, and not on others,'
- 7 line 5 replace 'primitive' by 'original'
- line 6/7 Place a period (.) after 'redemption'
- Replace 'in Christ' by 'He has chosen them in Christ'
- line 8 replace 'of the elect' by 'of all the elect'
- line 3/9 replace 'This elect number' by 'God has, in order that these elect'
- line 11 replace 'God has decreed to give to Christ to be saved by Him' by 'would be saved by Him, decreed to give them to Christ'
- 8 line 1 replace 'There are not various decrees of election' by 'This election is not various'
- line 2 delete 'decree'
- replace 'shall be' by 'are being'
- line 7 replace 'ordained' by 'prepared'
- 11 line 3 replace 'interrupted' by 'made undone and made again'
- 12 line 3 insert 'unto salvation' after 'election'
- line 7 replace 'filial fear' by 'a childlike fear of God'
- line 8 add '2 Cor.13:5' (after 'etc.')
- 13 line 5 replace 'The consideration of this doctrine of election is' by 'This doctrine of election and meditation on it are'
- 14 line 2-4 replace 'declared by the prophets, by Christ Himself, and by the apostles, and is clearly revealed in the Scriptures both of the Old and New Testament,' by 'proclaimed by the prophets, by Christ Himself and the apostles both in the Old and New Testament and afterwards was presented and handed down in the Holy Scriptures,'
- 15 line 1 delete 'tends to'
- add 's' to 'illustrate' and 'recommend'
- line 2 add 'our' (before 'election')
- line 3 replace 'but some only' by 'people'
- line 4 replace 'while others are' by 'but some are not elected or'
- replace 'decree; whom'
- by 'God's eternal election; namely those whom'
- line 9 replace 'permitting them in His just judgment to follow their own ways' by

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corrections Canons of Dort, page 2

by 'leaving them on their own ways and under His just judgment'

- Art. 16 line 5 replace 'which God has appointed for working these graces in us' by 'by which God works these graces in us according to His promise'
- line 14/5 italicize 'He will not quench the smoking flax, nor break the bruised reed'

Rejection of Errors

- Art. 6 line 3 add 'everlastingly.' (at the end of the sentence)
- 7 line 6 insert 'it is' (after 'also')
- line 11 insert 'the attacks of' (after 'darts of')
- 8 line 1/2 place 'simply by virtue of His righteous will' after 'did not' (rather than before it)

Chapter II

- Art. 2 line 1 replace 'Since, therefore,' by 'However, since'
- line 2 replace 'or' by 'and'
- line 5 insert 'on the cross,' (after 'curse')
- replace 'and' by 'or'
- Art. 3 line 2 replace 'worth' by 'power'
- 4 line 1 replace 'value and dignity' by 'power and value'
- line 2 replace 'submitted to' by 'suffered'
- 5 line 4 delete comma (,) after 'nations'
- line 5 delete 'promiscuously and'
- 7 line 2/3 replace 'are indebted for this benefit solely to' by 'enjoy these benefits solely by'
- line 4 replace 'and not to any merit of their own' by 'which grace He owes to no one'
- 8 line 13 insert 'through His blood' after 'purge them'
- 9 line 1 replace 'purpose' by 'counsel'
- insert 'God's' before 'everlasting'

Rejection of Errors

- Art. 2 line 2 insert 'in fact' after 'should'
- 3 line 1 replace 'merited neither' by 'did not certainly merit'
- 4 line 6 replace the first 'faith' by 'the law'
- line 15 insert 'united' before 'consensus'
- 6 line 10 replace 'that' by 'in order that'

Chapter III/IV

- Art. 1 last line insert 'all' after 'in'
- 2 line 5 replace 'vicious' by 'corrupt'
- 3 line 1 replace 'by nature' by 'born as'
- line 2 insert 'any' between 'of' and 'saving'
- line 4 interchange 'able' and 'willing'
- line 6 add 'thereof' (after 'reformation')
- Art. 4 line 1 replace 'the glimmerings of' by 'some'
- add letter 's' after 'remain'
- line 3 replace 'good and evil' by 'decent and indecent'
- line 9 replace 'hinders' by 'suppresses'

corrections Canons of Dort, page 3

- Art. 5 line 2 replace 'to His peculiar people' by 'particularly to'
- line 6 replace 'being weak' by 'weakened'
- 6 line 2 replace 'operation' by 'power'
- insert 'and' after 'Holy Spirit'
- 7 line 3 delete 'various'
- line 4 replace 'many' by 'more'
- 9 line 2 insert 'even' before 'confers'
- line 3 replace 'those' by 'there are many'
- line 4 replace 'refuse to come and be converted'
- by 'who do not come and are not converted'
- 10 line 1 replace 'obey the call' by 'ministry, come'
- line 6 delete 'wholly'
- line 10 delete 'own'
- replace 'show forth the praises'
- by 'declare the wonderful deeds'
- line 12/3 replace 'according to the testimony of the apostles in various places' by 'as the apostolic writings bear witness throughout'
- 11 line 1 replace 'But' by 'Further'
- line 2 replace 'or' by 'and'
- line 8 replace 'was' by 'is'
- 12 line 12 replace 'declares' by 'witnesses'
- line 3 replace 'But' by 'And'
- 14 line 3/4 replace 'man, to be accepted or rejected at his pleasure'
- by 'the free will of man'
- line 5 replace 'bestows the power or ability'
- by 'would bestow the power only'
- replace 'expects' by 'expect'
- 15 line 5 replace 'becomes the subject of' by 'receives'
- line 6 insert 'only' after 'God'
- insert 'also' before 'gives'
- line 7 replace 'forever' by 'for it'
- replace 'is not made partaker thereof'
- by 'does not receive this grace'
- line 13 replace 'apostle' by 'apostles'
- line 17 replace 'But' by 'And'
- 16 line 1 replace 'creature' by 'man'
- line 2 replace 'understanding' by 'intellect'
- line 5 insert 'divine' before 'grace'
- line 9 insert 'now' before 'a ready'
- 17 line 3 replace 'mercy' by 'wisdom'
- line 4 replace 'influence' by 'might'
- line 5 replace 'we are regenerated' by 'He regenerates us'
- line 17 replace 'most intimately' by 'willed that they should remain'
- line 19 delete 'usually'

Rejection of Errors

- Art. 3 line 6 insert 'free' after 'its'
- 5 line 8 replace 'conversion' by 'the knowledge of Christ, to faith and to conversion'
- 6 line 17 add 'of God' after 'Church'