



In 1643 the English Parliament called an assembly of 121 clergymen and 31 laymen, some of the greatest biblical scholars and men of God the world has known, to provide a creed and form of government for the church. This group, which became known as the Westminster Assembly because they convened at Westminster Abbey in London, was composed mostly of Presbyterian Puritans with a few Episcopalians and Congregationalists. A number of Scottish commissioners were also given seats in the Assembly, and while they had no vote, they exercised a strong influence.

The Westminster Assembly penned what many consider to be the finest creedal statement known to Christendom; a Directory of Worship, Confession of Faith, and two catechisms, the Larger Catechism, for pulpit exposition, and the Shorter Catechism, for the teaching of children. With few modifications this creed is still held by faithful Presbyterian Churches throughout the world. The Westminster Standards are based on the acceptance of the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the full and only authoritative Word of God for faith and righteous living. The fact that this statement of faith has endured for over three centuries testifies to the timelessness of truth.

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