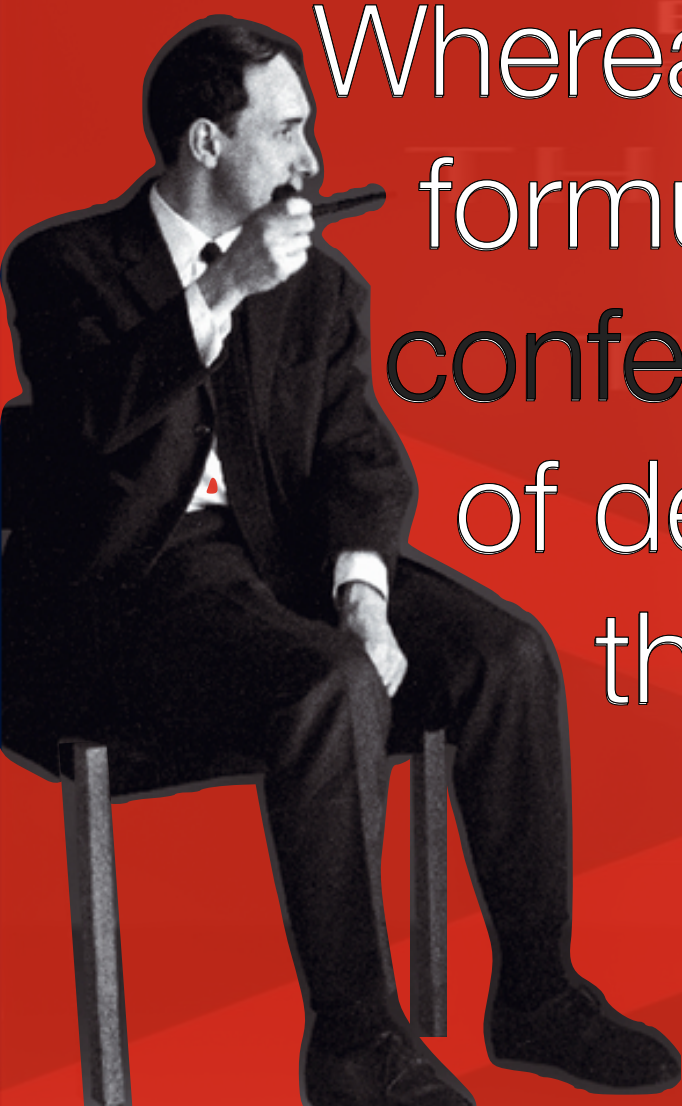


„Jesus
Christus
ist das
eine Wort
Gottes.“



BARMEN & BELHAR: WESTMINSTER SEMINAR 2026

THE CHURCH AGAINST NAZISM (THE BARMEN DECLARATION)



Whereas such **Confessions** are formulated relatively seldom, **confessing** itself is a basic way of defining the daily task in the life of all Christians.

— Eberhard Busch (*Barmen Theses Then & Now*, 8-9)

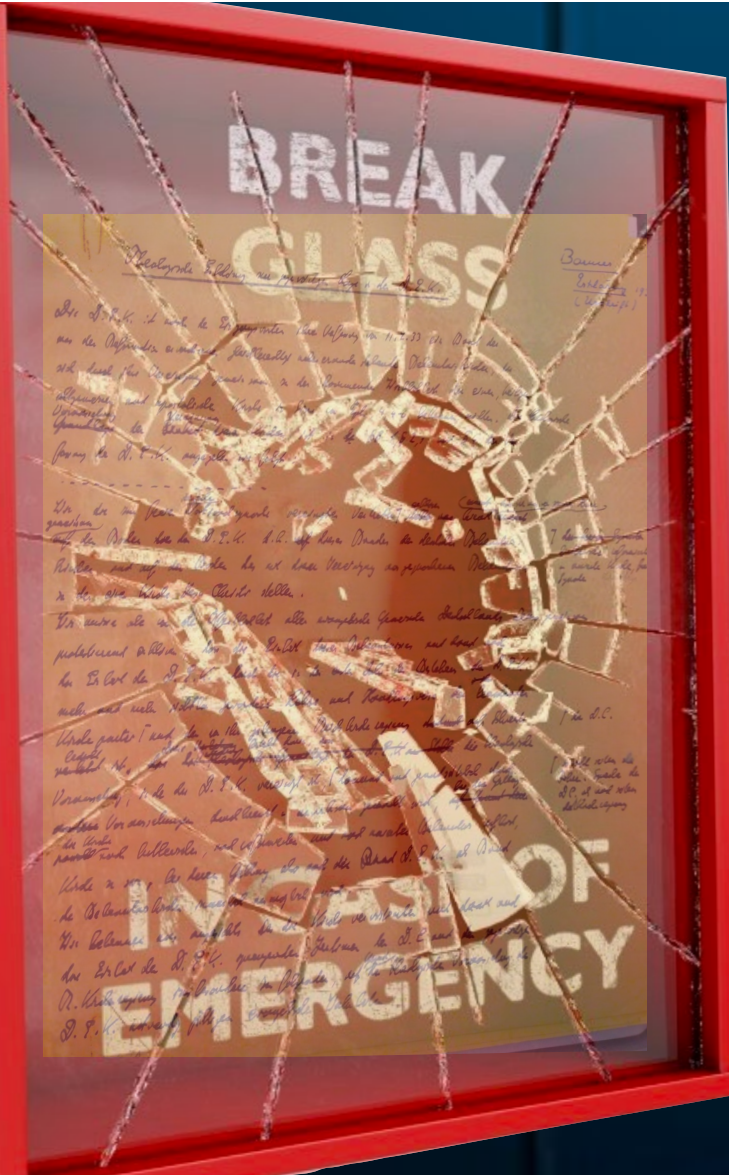
Eberhard Busch

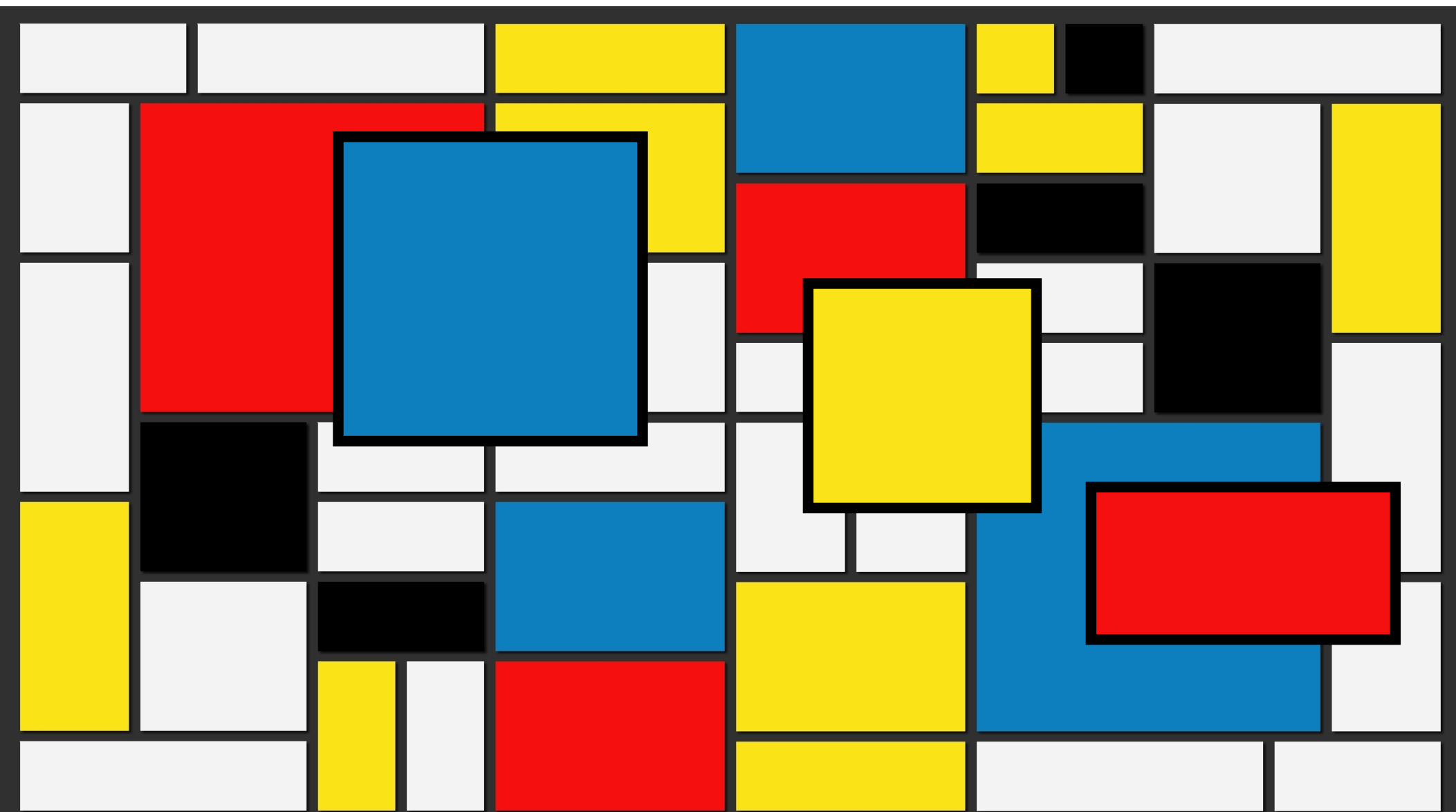
Foreword by Daniel L. Migliore

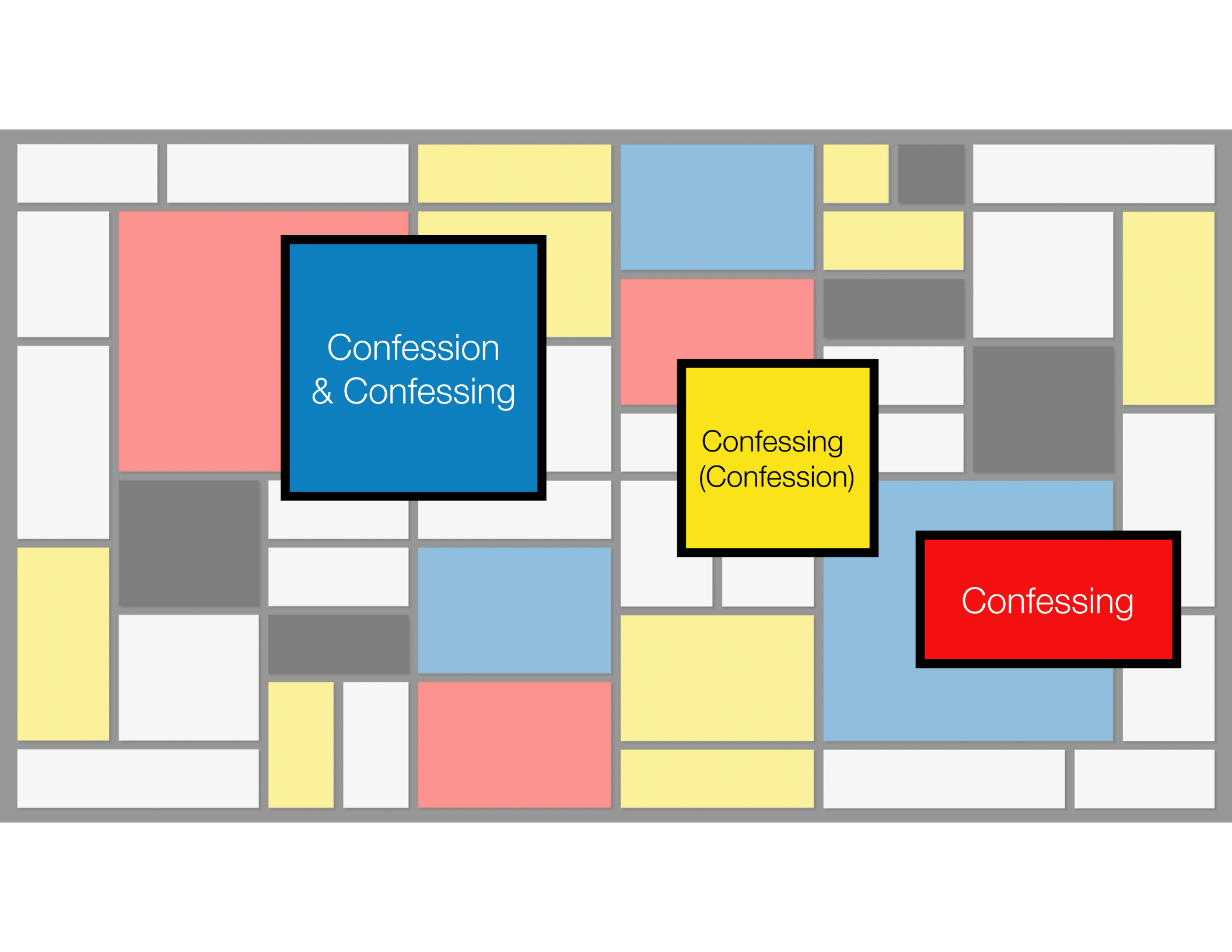
THE CONCEPT “REFORMED CONFESSION”

- ▶ EMPHASIZE ORDINARY EVERYDAY CONFESSING (CONFESSIO CONTINUA)
- ▶ DEEMPHASIZE EXTRAORDINARY CONFESSIONS (STATUS CONFESSIONIS)
- ▶ CONTEXTUALIZE CONFESSIONS (NOUN) AS PRODUCT OF CONFESSING PRACTICE (VERB)
- ▶ RELATIVIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF CONFESSORIAL “AUTHORS”
- ▶ PRIORITIZE COLLECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF COMMUNITY









Confession
& Confessing

Confessing
(Confession)

Confessing



THE TREATY OF PEACE BETWEEN THE ALLIED AND ASSOCIATED POWERS AND GERMANY,

The Protocol annexed thereto, the Agreement respecting
the military occupation of the territories of the Rhine,
AND THE
TREATY
BETWEEN
FRANCE AND GREAT BRITAIN
RESPECTING
Assistance to France in the event of
aggression by Germany.
Signed at Versailles, June 28th,

with Maps and Signatures in facsimile

TREATY SIGNED; WAR OVER
FINAL EDITION
PRICE TWO CENTS
14 PAGES
NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1919
The Evening World
Circulation Breaks Over 10,000

WILSON LEAVES PARIS; SAILS SUNDAY
PRICE TWO CENTS
TREATY SEVERE ON GERMANY, SAYS WILSON, BUT IMPOSES NO RESERVATION
GERMANS PLEDGED TO ENFORCE TREATY; NO RESERVATION
WILSON, STARTING FOR HOME, BIDS FRANCE GOODBEE
Mueller Signs for Germans
Bell a Minute Later
Name Comes Next For Lloyd George and Clemenceau
Soldiers Break Ranks and Demonstrations of Joy
Refuse to Attend Conference
Gen. Smuts Signs Treaty
VERSAILLES, June 28 (AP) - War was formally ended today with the signing of the Treaty of Peace.



The French
the military occupy

TREATY BETWEEN FRANCE AND GREAT BRITAIN RESPECTING

Assistance to France in the event of
aggression by Germany.

Signed at Versailles, June 28th,

with Maps and Signatures in facsimile



DAVID THE SPOKESMAN: "Off with the spiked hat! What d'you think we fought for if not to abolish militarism?"



TREATY

PRICE TWO CENTS
WILSON
GERMANS







PATH TO THE REICH:

- ▶ 1932 Nazis Win 38% Reichstag
- ▶ 1933 Hitler Chancellor (January)
- ▶ 1933 Hitler Führer (March)
- ▶ 1934 Hitler Abolishes Government



**“WE TOLERATE NO ONE
IN OUR RANKS WHO
ATTACKS CHRISTIANITY.
OUR MOVEMENT IS
CHRISTIAN.”**

— Adolph Hitler (1928)



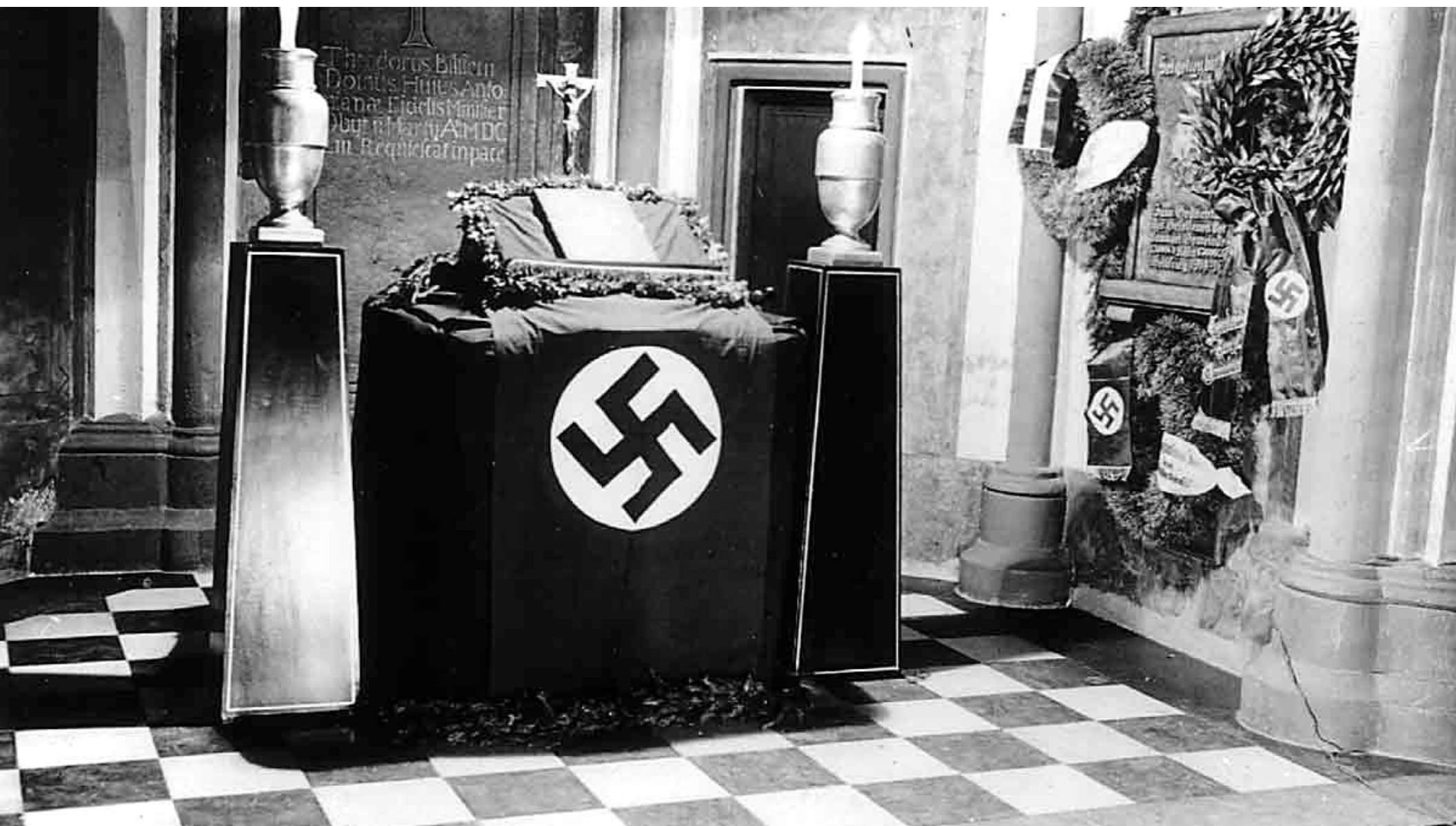
ROAD TO BARMEN:

- ▶ 1933... *Gleichshaltung* Campaign
- ▶ 1933 Aryan Paragraph (April)
- ▶ 1933 Pfarrernotbund (September)
- ▶ 1934 Confessing Church (May)



**“NATIONAL SOCIALISM IS THE
DOING OF GOD’S WILL. GOD’S
WILL REVEALS ITSELF IN GERMAN
BLOOD.... TRUE CHRISTIANITY
IS REPRESENTED BY THE PARTY.
...THE FÜHRER IS THE HERALD
OF A NEW REVELATION.”**

— Hans Kerrl (1933)



Verpflichtung.

1. Ich verpflichte mich, mein Amt als Diener des Wortes auszurichten allein in der Bindung an die Hl.Schrift und an die Bekenntnisse der Reformation als die rechte Auslegung der Hl.Schrift.
2. Ich verpflichte mich, gegen alle Verletzung solchen Bekenntnisstandes mit rückhaltlosem Einsatz zu protestieren.
4. Ich weiß mich nach bestem Vermögen mit verantwortlich für die, die um solchen Bekenntnisstandes willen verfolgt werden.
5. In solcher Verpflichtung bezeuge ich, daß eine Verletzung des Bekenntnisstandes mit der Anwendung des Arierparagraphen im Raum der Kirche Christi geschaffen ist.

....., den 1933.
(Genauere Ortsangabe)

.....
(Unterschrift)

Vermerk: Der Punkt 3 der früheren Verpflichtungsformulare fällt fort.

(1) I oblige myself to execute my ministry as a servant of the Word, holding myself bound solely to holy scripture and to the Confessions of the Reformation as the correct exposition of holy scripture

(2) I oblige myself to protest, regardless of the cost, against every violation of this confessional stand

(3) I hold myself responsible to the utmost of my power for those who are persecuted on account of this confessional stand

(4) In this obligation, I bear witness that the application of the Aryan Paragraph within the sphere of the Church of Christ has violated this confessional stand

THE BARMEN DECLARATION: THE BASICS

- ▶ JOINT SYNOD OF PROTESTANT CHURCHES
- ▶ CONCURRENT STATEMENT OF LUTHERAN, REFORMED, UNITED
- ▶ DISSENSION & SECESSION FROM REICHSKIRCHE (STATE CHURCH)
- ▶ REJECTION OF STATE IMPOSITION & UNION OF ALTAR & THRONE

DEUTSCHE BUNDESPOST 50 JAHRE
BARMER THEOLOGISCHE
ERKLÄRUNG

1984

(1) Jesus Christ is the one Word of God revealed by the witness of Scripture

(2) Salvation of the Gospel brings obligation of the Law for both discipleship and citizenship

(3) As community faith & religious institution, Church belongs to Christ alone

(4) Ministry of Christ given equally to each & every member of the community

(5) State is responsible for justice & peace; rulers & ruled alike share this responsibility

(6) The Grace of the Gospel & the mission of the Church are for all persons & peoples

(1) No other word, person, people (VOLK), or event has authority of revelation

(2) There are no other lords beyond or beside Jesus Christ

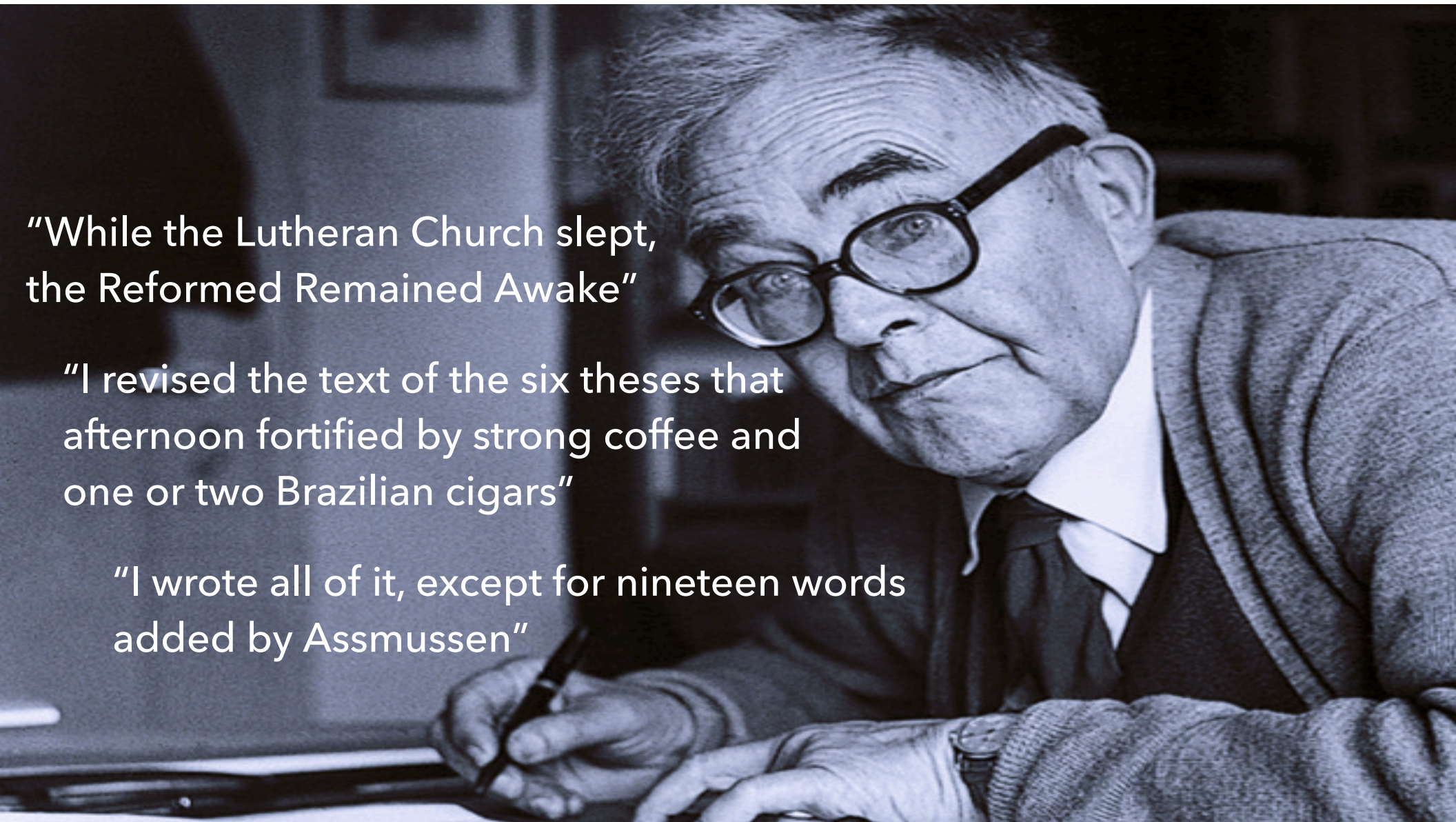
(3) Theology, morality, liturgy, & ecclesiology cannot be subordinated to ideology

(4) There can be no special leaders (FÜHRER) in the Church or for the Church

(5) The state can neither neglect justice & peace, nor assert totalitarian order

(6) Neither the German people (VOLK) nor the German State (REICH) has a divine mission

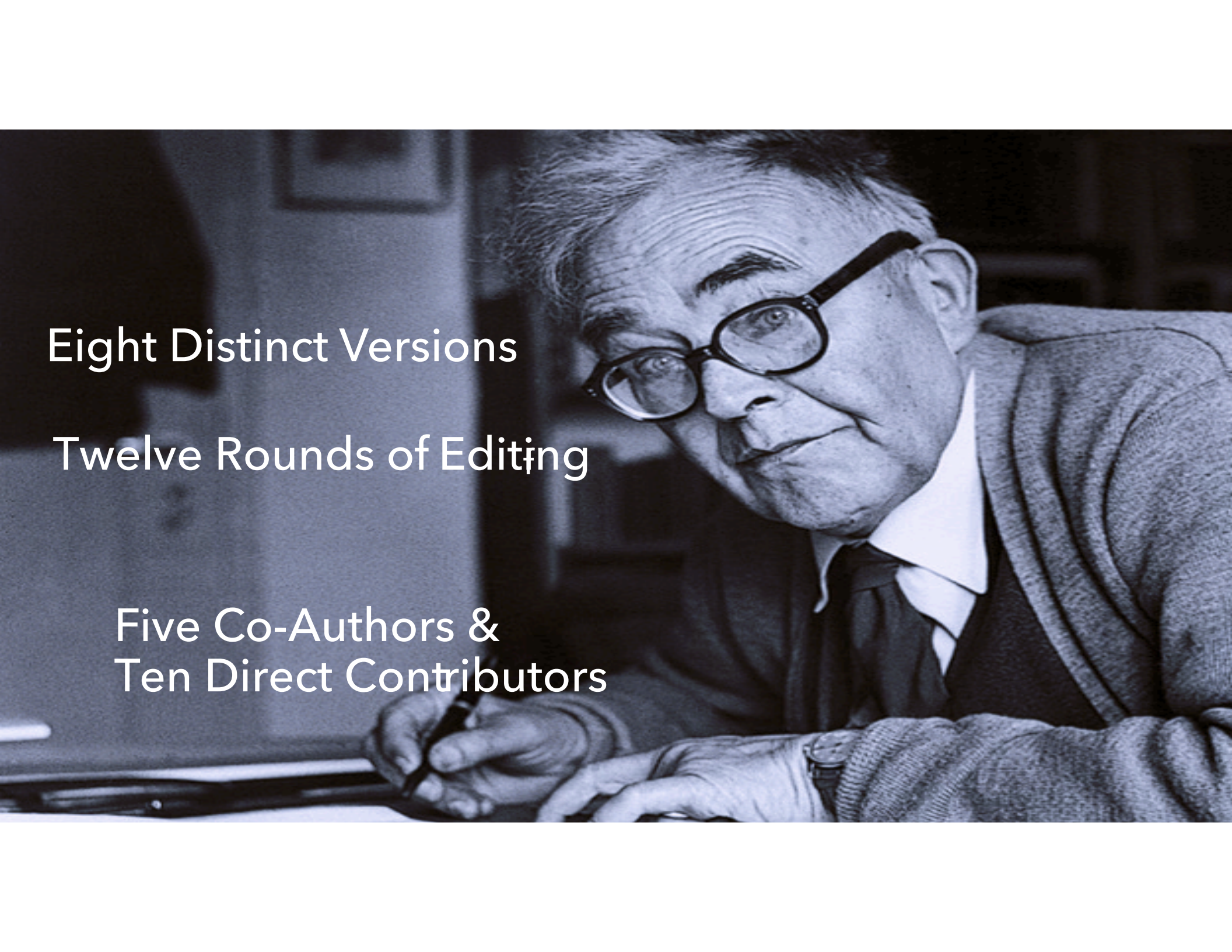




"While the Lutheran Church slept,
the Reformed Remained Awake"

"I revised the text of the six theses that
afternoon fortified by strong coffee and
one or two Brazilian cigars"

"I wrote all of it, except for nineteen words
added by Assmussen"



Eight Distinct Versions

Twelve Rounds of Editing

Five Co-Authors &
Ten Direct Contributors



Frankfurt 15-16 May:

Rough Outline

Barth's First Draft

Basel Manuscript

Archetype

Frankfurt Concord

Leipzig/Erlangen 17-28 May:

Leipzig Counter-Proposal

Stoll "Message" Version

Erlangen Counter-Proposal

Barmen 29-31 May:

Stoll / Concord/ Leipzig Versions

Proposal Version

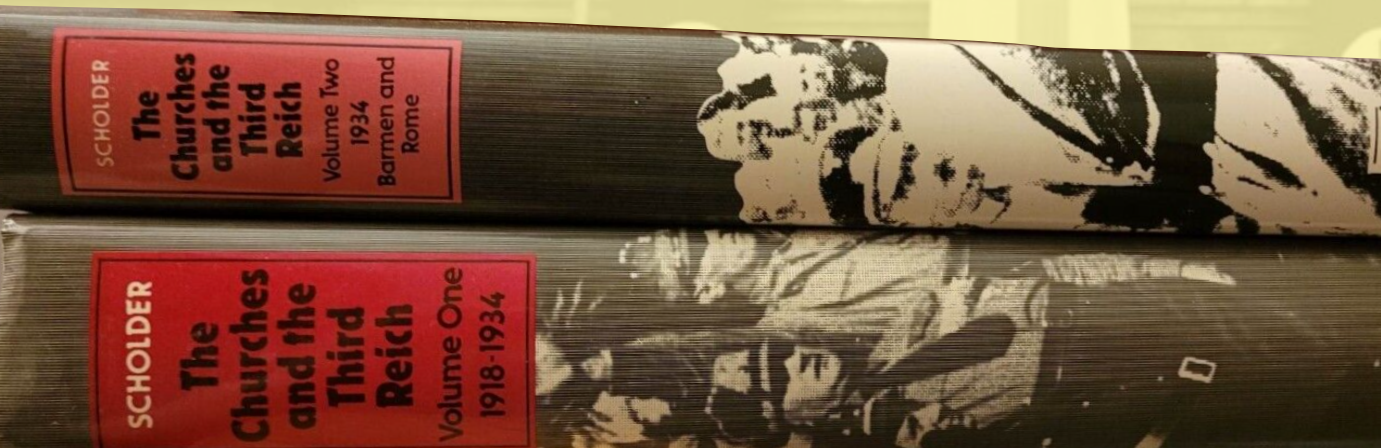
Revised Thesis Five: FINAL VERSION

PRECEDENTS & COMPONENTS OF THE BARMEN DECLARATION:

- ▶ **January 1933** Word & Confession of the Altona Pastors in the Midst of the Problems & Confusions of Public Life
- ▶ **May 1933** Düsseldorf Confession
- ▶ **August 1933** Bethel Confession
- ▶ **January 1934** Declaration of the Right Understanding of Reformation Confessions
- ▶ **May 1934** Bonn Flyer



- ▶ **January 1933** Word & Confession of the Altona Pastors in the Midst of the Problems & Confusions of Public Life
- ▶ **January 1934** Declaration of the Right Understanding of Reformation Confessions
- ▶ **May 1934** Bonn Flyer





Take your Bible and your newspaper, and read them both. But interpret your newspaper from your Bible, not the other way around.

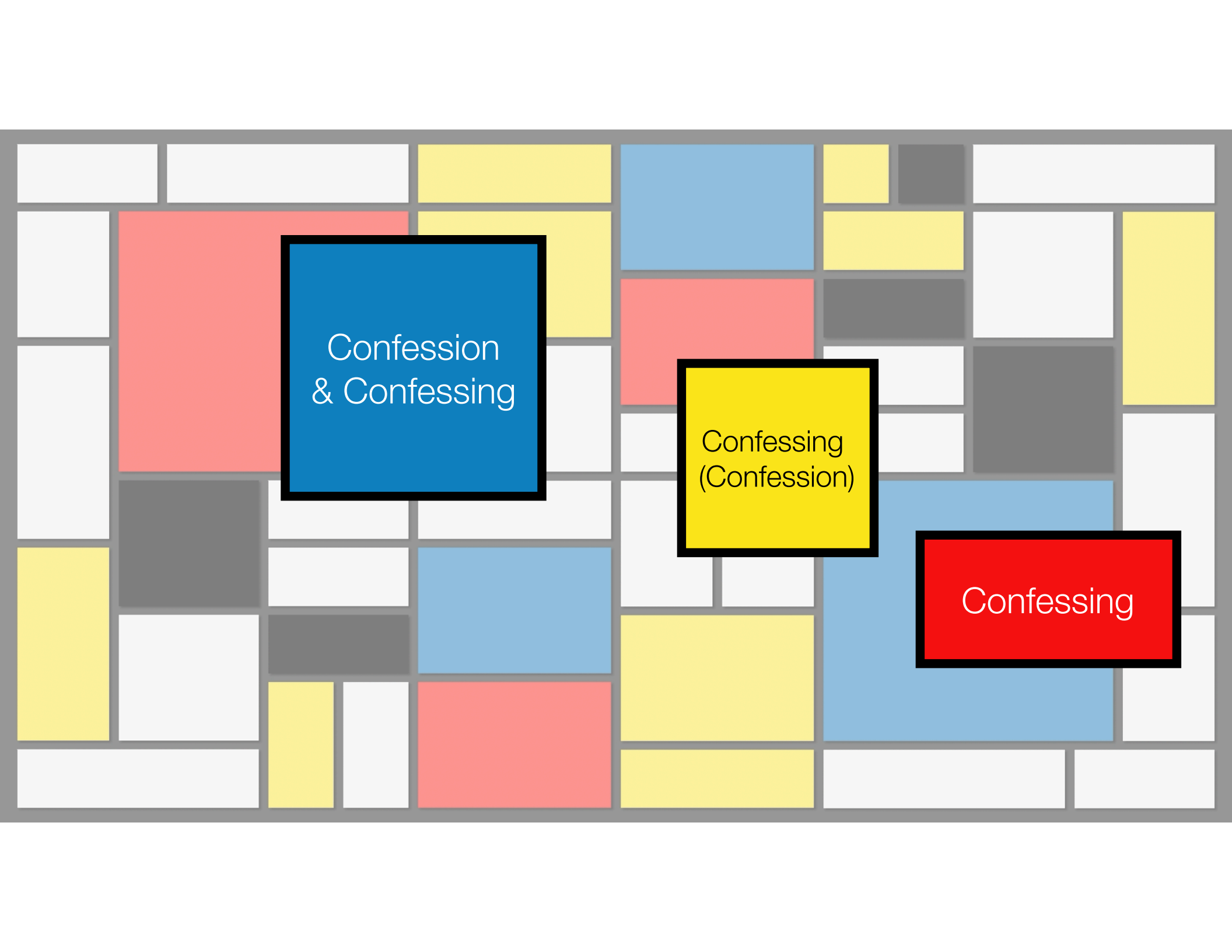


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Confession
& Confessing

Confessing
(Confession)

Confessing

