

# Hermeneutics, Confession & Identity

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# The Confessional Nature of Anabaptist Theology

*“it is possible that adherents to Anabaptism produced more confessions of faith than any other Protestant Stream”*

*~ Cornelius Dyck*



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# Confessional Statements

1. Reinforce internal doctrinal cohesion
2. Facilitate discussions between groups seeking to unite
3. Foster ecumenical witness

# Hermeneutic and Confession

*Our Confession is a product of Mennonite Brethren direct interaction with Scripture.*



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# Hermeneutic and Identity

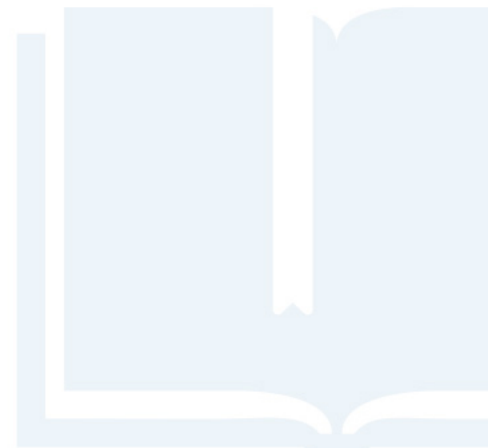
*The Confession defines the corporate MB theological identity in that it describes what we believe the Bible teaches, and what kind of people Mennonite Brethren are to be as we follow Jesus.*

*~ 2018 Introduction to the Confession of Faith*

# Hermeneutic and Identity

*“You ain’t nobody unless you’re frum somewhere”*

*~ Flannery O’Connor*



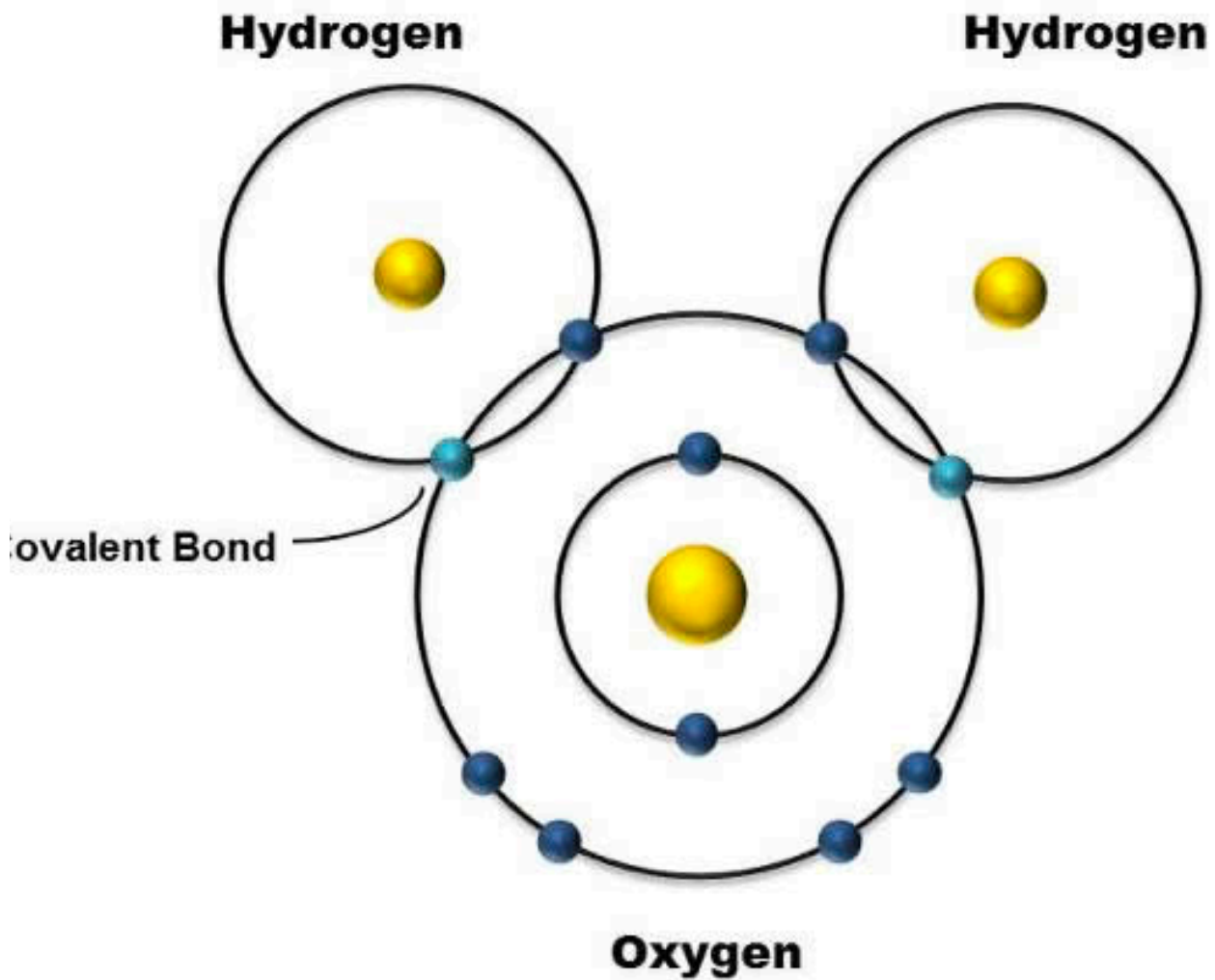
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# Hermeneutic and Identity

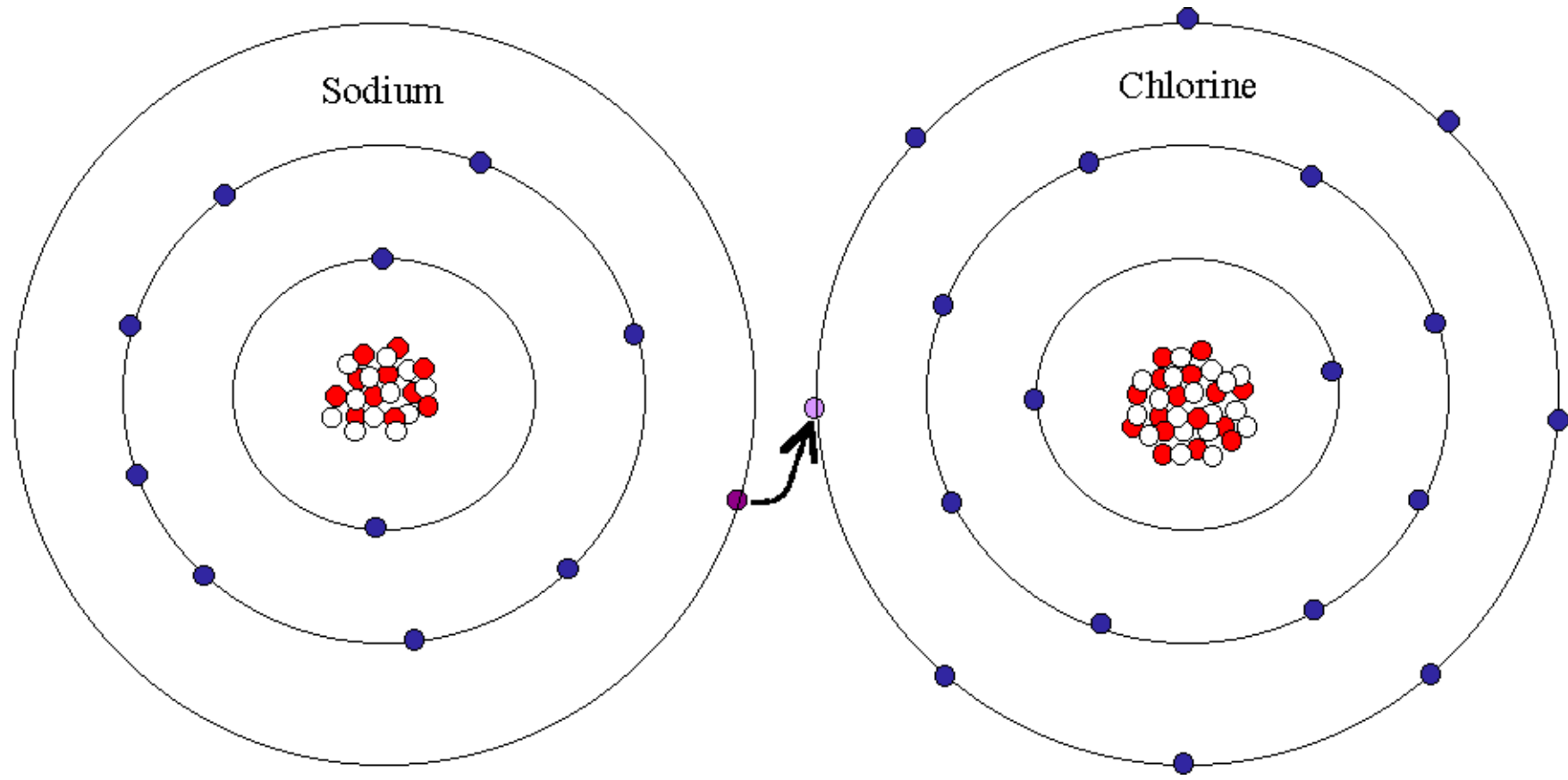
*“It is no small pity, and should cause us no little shame, that, through our own fault, we do not understand ourselves, or know who we are. Would it not be a sign of great ignorance, my daughters, if a person were asked who he was, and could not say, and had no idea who his father or his mother was, or from what country he came?*

*Though that is great stupidity, our own is incomparably greater if we make no attempt to discover what we are...”*

*~ Teresa of Avila, Interior Castles*

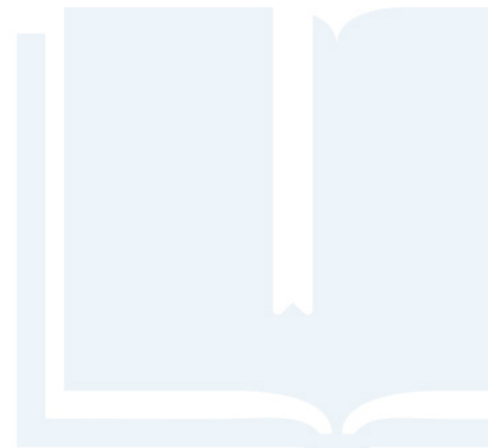






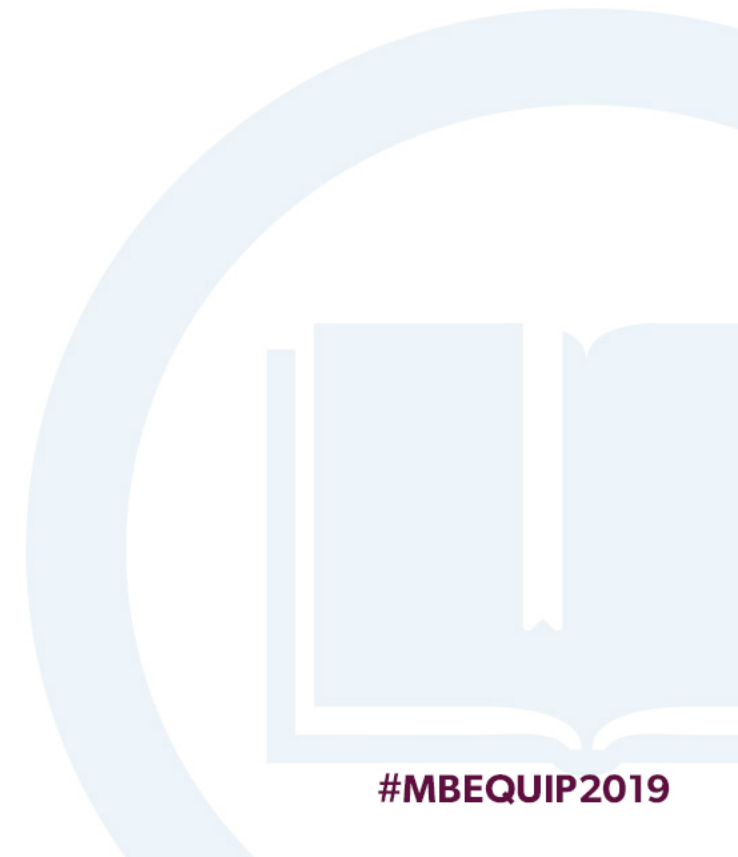
# Engage even in disagreeing

*Holding our convictions in a posture of humble confidence*



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# The Interpretive Model



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# Now what?

Formalize the interpretive model and method

- Gather feedback
- Produce instructional resources



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