CHAPTER FIVE

WINDOWS OF OPPORTUNITY, 1653–1678

After 1637 the production of picture Bibles had, as we have seen, rapidly become interconfessional in nature. From the 1650s through the 1680s, more and more liberties were taken as confessional overtones were added to some new editions made by Catholic and Anabaptist publishers. Religious emblematic imagery also came to be used somewhat more freely: certain innovative but isolated representatives of the Anabaptists as well as the Catholics produced religious emblems books which hardly differed from Catholic emblem collections as produced in the Southern Netherlands during the first half of the seventeenth century. The Dutch Reformed, for their part, appropriated some elements of Catholic iconography for use as illustrative material on title pages of their publications.

It should also be noted here that even though interest in religious imagery was growing, the majority of all Dutch religious works remained unillustrated between 1653 and 1680. In matters of religion, the word was still preferred over the image. Visual means were mainly used to emphasize the importance of the text, as is most obvious in the case of the title page of Jan Jansz. Deutel’s *Stichtelijck vermaeck der deught-lievende jonckheydt* [Edifying Pleasures for the Virtuous Youth], on which the typographically enhanced printer’s device of Abraham Isaacz van der Beeck underlines the priority of the Word—‘Wilt ’t Woord’ [Desire the Word] (see Fig. 48).

The publisher’s message that the reader should focus on the word comes through loud and clear. The early seventeenth-century restrictive attitude, based on Dutch Reformed restraints, was still dominant.

*New Additions to Picture Bibles*

Interconfessional collaboration was very common in the production of picture Bibles in the 1630s and 1640s, and would become even more common in the 1650s. This is evident from the presence of engravings based on Rubens’ paintings, made by Pieter Hendricksz. Schut, in Visscher’s *Tooneel ofte Vertooch der Bybelsche Historien* [Theatre or
Stichtelijck Vermaeck
DER
Deught-lievende Jonckheydt.
Bestaende
In eene Geestelijcke Liedekens en Ghe-
sanghen, door diverse Personen, by verscheeyden
gelegenheden, op soete en aenghena-
me Wijlen gedicht.
Tot ieders nut by een vergaderd.
Als oock
Eenighe, ghertijnt en ghestelt door
F. F. Deutel.

Wilt 't Woort.

Fig. 48 Title page Jan Jansz. Deutel, Stichtelijck vermaeck der deught-lievende jonckheydt. Hoorn: Abraham Isaacz. van der Beeck, 1662.