

REAL TALK FROM THE WORD

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Apostles' Creed – Week 1

The Apostles' Creed is a simple yet profound document that Christians have relied upon for over 1,600 years to root themselves in common belief and purpose. As we study this summer, we will seek to recover the core truths that have provided a firm foundation and directed the lives of Christians for centuries.

*I believe in
God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead and on the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, and he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Creed /krēd/

- a system of Christian or other religious belief; a faith.
- a formal statement of Christian beliefs, especially the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed.
- a set of beliefs or aims which guide someone's actions.

synonyms: faith, religion, religious belief(s), religious persuasion, religious conviction, religious group, faith community, church

A creed is a document that lays out the essential beliefs of a religion.

- Creeds do not hold any authority in and of themselves, but rather, they point outside themselves to the ultimate authority of the word of God.

Throughout this study, we will observe and apply the principles outlined in the Apostles' Creed by using these four points as a guide to pull out key truths:

- **SYMMETRY (Balance):** The creed helps us to develop a deeper, more knowledgeable faith – to know what we believe and why
- **CLARITY:** The creed helps to make clear who God really is. What you believe about God is the most important thing in your life: it shapes all your attitudes and actions.
- **COMMUNITY:** The creed informs all those that we engage with whom we belong to and whom we're with.
- **COUNSEL:** The creed informs the way we counsel ourselves and others.

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Romans 10:9-10 (NASB)

“...that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”

Believing and knowing are not the same:

- Believing leads to action
- Knowing may or may not lead to action

Believing in our heart must come FIRST and it drives the confession of our mouth of WHAT we believe.

Belief is birthed in the heart.

The Apostles' Creed shows us that the message of Christianity is not a list of “do this or that” – the message is all about what our God has done!

Heb 11:1-2 (NASB) - “Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval.”

Genesis 12:1-4 (NASB)

Now the LORD said to Abram,

“Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.” So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.”

- Abraham's belief in God affected his own life, the lives of his family members, and the lives of the people around him.