

## REAL TALK FROM THE WORD

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### **SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL**

#### *Apostles' Creed – Week 10*

*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.**

The word catholic (with lowercase c; derived via Late Latin catholicus, from the Greek adjective καθολικός (*katholikos*), meaning "**universal**") comes from the Greek phrase καθόλου (*katholou*), meaning "on the whole", "according to the whole" or "in general", and is a combination of the Greek words κατά meaning "about" and ὅλος meaning "whole".

In non-ecclesiastical use, it derives its English meaning directly from its root, and is currently used to mean the following:

- including a wide variety of things; all-embracing
- universal or of general interest;
- liberal, [according to whom?] having broad interests, or wide sympathies; or
- inclusive, inviting and containing strong evangelism.

When the Apostles' Creed says, "the holy catholic church", it is not referring to the Roman Catholic church but as ALL Christians everywhere all over time. Christians everywhere are a part of our family, a part of something we belong to.

***Everyone has God as their Creator, but NOT everyone has God as their Father.***

The biblical worldview for our lives is that we might be in right relationship with God and each other.

***Ac 2:42-47 (NASB)***

"They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved."

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What characteristics defined the church? What words described the experiences of the church?

### ***Ep 4:4-7 (NASB)***

“*There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.*”

What specific things to Christians share in common that unite us?

### ***Heb 10:23-25 (NASB)***

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

*It is God's good design that we would belong to a local church, not that we would just go to one. That's different from belonging.*

### ***Ep 2:19-22 (NASB)***

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

What is the image of the church given here?

*Other scriptures for consideration:*

*Ephesians 5:22-32*

*Colossians 1:15-20*

*I Corinthians 12:12-26*

- **SYMMETRY (Balance):** If you know everyone, you don't know anyone. God's call on our lives is deep, rich relationships that are rooted and established in how He called us to Himself.
- **CLARITY:** God called you to Himself. In calling you to Himself, He has called you to others, both to be a blessing and to receive the blessing of others.
- **COMMUNITY:** I cannot do it all. I cannot have it all.
- **COUNSEL:** The Christian is open to the counsel of others. The tangible presence of God is most often revealed in living among the communion of the saints. (Prov 11:14)