

WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////

This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures. Our goal is not just “to know” but to “act upon what we know.” (His Word, Our Walk!) We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends or your group.



For Discussion:

1. How has the church been meaningful in your growth as a believer? Why should the word “catholic” be important to us?
2. Do you have real “communion” or fellowship with other believers? If not, what must you do to make that happen?
3. What was your “aha” moment from this study?

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

And in (I believe in) Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there 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.



June 15 & 16, 2019 | The Apostles' Creed #7 | Dennis Miller, pastor

LESSONS

1. Creeds are an essential part of our FAITH. Without them, we can quickly forget the BASICS.

Mark 12:29 "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Rom. 10:9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

2. The Apostles' Creed is for ALL who believe in Jesus.

A SHORT REVIEW

1. This creed is a very PERSONAL statement of faith.

— I believe in the Holy Spirit . . .

John 9:38 Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

2. The creed declares the TRIUNITY of God and reminds the speaker that there is a God who deserves our worship.
3. The third paragraph of the creed is about the THIRD person of the trinity, the Holy Spirit, and reminds us of His WORK in our world. The work of Jesus, generally speaking, was done ONCE; the work of the Holy Spirit is CONTINUOUS and present.
4. The Holy Spirit indwells believers and provides DIRECTION, conviction, and gifts. He also helps us produce FRUIT.

THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH,

Some general thoughts:

1. This line of the creed is the first that can cause DIVISION among Christians, BOTH in understanding and application.

Eph. 4:3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

2. This line can cause SOME groups of Christians (especially evangelicals) to SQUIRM a bit.

Eph. 2:19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household,

Matthew Henry once said that “*when we take God for our God, we take His people for our people.*”

Augustine said, “*He cannot have God for his Father, who refuses to have the Church for his mother.*”

Understanding what “holy catholic church” means:

1. The word “holy” means “SET APART”.

1Pet. 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; . . . (KJV)

1Pet. 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, . . . (NIV)

2. The word “catholic” is written with a LOWER-case “c” and simply means “UNIVERSAL or all-embracing”.

3. The word “church” is ekklesia and means “the CALLED OUT ones”.

a. The church officially BEGAN at Pentecost (*I believe in the Holy Spirit*) and began to SPREAD across the known world.

b. Jesus Christ is the HEAD of the church.

Eph. 1:22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,

c. The church is the BODY of our Lord.

Col. 1:24 Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

4. The church is a unique ENTITY (organism) in our world.

a. From the beginning, all people were ACCEPTED.

Gal. 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

b. From the beginning, the church was EVANGELISTIC.

Matt 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

c. From the beginning, the message was TRANSLATED for each nation or CULTURE.

d. From the beginning, the church even crossed TIME itself as not even DEATH separates one from the Body.

Heb. 12:23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,

THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS,

1. To understand this line, you need to know that . . .

a. The word “communion” (from common union) is an OLDER word that is not used in MODERN translations. The Greek word (κοινωνία, koinōnia) is usually translated “FELLOWSHIP”. The word means to have “participation” or “INTIMACY” with one another. (*This word has nothing to do with what we call “Holy Communion”.*)

2Cor. 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen. (KJV)

Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

b. The word “saints” (ἅγιος, hagios) is another word that can have DIFFERENT meanings to different groups. The word is used 61 times in the New Testament and refers to ANYONE who is a follower of Christ (a believer).

Eph. 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

2. To apply this line, you need to have FELLOWSHIP with other believers. This kind of fellowship usually happens in small GROUPS and in SERVING.

YOUR THOUGHTS?