

## THE BIG IDEA: When we heed the creed, we'll have what we need.

### The Take-Off

Let me say right off to all the dads - Happy Father's Day!

I know that this day can be a hard day for those of us who maybe didn't have a father around or grew up with a father who was difficult to be with, but it's still good to remember that collectively, we're better because of dads.

Fathers shape us and mold us - they help us see who we are and help us find our place in the world

And they teach us things that can impact us for the rest of our lives

I'm not just talking about Dad jokes, either!

Yes, we groan at those, but then we turn right back around and use them with our kids

That's a fun example of how Dads impact us, but what about the things they tell us that seem to come straight out of a secret Dad book somewhere because it seems like all dads say most of the same things.

Even as I say these, I bet you're going to finish them at home while you're watching:

- When I was your age...
- A little dirt never hurt anyone
- Go ask your mother
- Were you raised in a barn?
- You don't know what hard work is
- It builds character
- Don't make me stop this car!
- You're grounded till you're thirty!
- Money doesn't grow on trees
- Because I said so

Then there's the uncommon wisdom - spoken from one father to his son or daughter

I love what Dr. Phil said: My dad used to say, "You wouldn't worry so much about what people thought about you if you knew how seldom they did."

Michael Jordan: My father used to say that it's never too late to do anything you wanted to do. And he said, "You never know what you can accomplish until you try."

This is what dads do. They offer us wisdom - often through example - and at other times in bitesize pieces that we remember for the rest of our lives.

And all of that brings us to our next topic in the Remix series: creeds

This is going to be a 2 part message that helps us understand the foundational aspect of creeds: this week, we'll answer the question, "What is a creed?" and next week we'll answer, "What's the point of creeds?"

So, let's jump on that first question: What is a creed?

### 1. What's a creed?

- a. I don't mean Creed the movie or Creed the band
- b. I mean creeds that were formulated in the early church and have been around in various forms since then
- c. Those creeds might seem foreign to some of you, but what I want to show you this morning is that the concept of creeds is something that all of us already use
- d. Now, if you look up the word "creed" to get a definition, you'll find a couple of them:
  - a brief authoritative formula of religious belief, and
  - A set of fundamental beliefs or a guiding principle
- e. Did you catch that last meaning? "A guiding principle"
- f. Creeds are like those things our dads taught us. None of us would say that "money doesn't grow on trees" is all that we need to know about money, but it's a very clear principle that helps us in our finances
- g. Creeds were meant to be more clear and common than comprehensive
- h. They don't explain everything there is to know, but they help us learn everything that we need to know
- i. The Big Idea says it like this: **when we heed the creed, we'll have what we need.**
- j. In a sense, creeds are like the wisdom our dads gave us - but these are from the early church fathers
- k. Let me give a couple more broad points about what creeds are and then we'll wrap this morning up with a couple of examples

- l. Creeds are a touchstone: they're a lifeline to keep us attached to what doesn't move as we wade out into waters that do
- m. They are a way to keep what matters most in view
- n. They are a rallying cry, so to speak, that instantly brings us all back to what we all hold dear
- o. Some examples...
- p. One: My mom, the doxology, and the silliest prayer ending ever
  - It didn't happen at every prayer before a meal, but when we got older and moved away, it happened at a lot of them
  - After the amen, my mom would start singing the doxology.
  - After the doxology, we'd swing our arms and say, "How happy we are, how happy we are, how happy to be together!" and then we'd swing our arms up together
  - It was weird, but I'll never forget it.
- q. Two: Keep Pounding
  - That 2 word creed - declaration - instantly identifies me as a Carolina Panthers fan
  - If we are saying it together, it clearly communicates a never give up attitude of the Panthers
  - It also keeps us unified around liking the Panthers even if we disagree on what they should have done with Cam Newton
- r. Three: Ephesians 4:1-6
  - v. 1 / the context is our lives and how we live them
  - v. 2 / what we need when others are in our lives
  - v. 3 / if unity was easy, Paul wouldn't have said make every effort (he also wouldn't have called it an effort!)
  - Paul recognized the work involved in unity - the need for grace, patience, the need for effort - because he recognized that we wouldn't not agree on everything
  - vv. 4-6 / if we can't agree on everything, Paul lists the things we all need to agree on

## The Landing

When we heed the creed, we'll have all we need

When you read the rest of Paul's other letters, you'll see right away that the early church often disagreed on how to live out these 7 "ones" and yet instead of focusing on the differences, this creed called them all back to what they all knew to be true

Not every Panthers fan will agree on what happened with Cam

Not everyone in my family thinks we should have done the crazy "after the prayer" chant at my brother's funeral

Not every believer is going to agree on how the Spirit works or the body functions

But all of us can Keep Pounding

All of us can smile knowing we're together

And all of us can agree that there is "one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all"

Those are what matter most, and when we heed the creed, we'll have all we need.