

THE BIG IDEA: The Apostles Creed helps ground us in truth and guard us from error.

The Take-Off

Before we turn our attention to one of the most well-known creeds of the early church - The Apostles Creed - let's do a quick recap of what we've learned so far in the Remix series generally and about creeds specifically:

- A remix is a new sound of an old song
- It doesn't replace the old song; in fact, if you don't know the original, you can't make a remix
- In Week 1, we learned that the song that has been around from the beginning was God's plan to fill the earth with His glory
- Man was created in His image - as carriers of His glory - and told to multiply, to fill the earth
- Anywhere there is an empty space, we're commanded to carry His glory, to fill that space
- Week 2 looked at the cross and how what Jesus accomplished on the cross appeased the wrath of God and destroyed the walls of men
- **Eph. 2:14** says that Jesus demolished the wall that kept the Jews and Gentiles apart
- He came to make us one
- The last 2 weeks we've talked about creeds: what they are and what they do
- Creeds are fundamental beliefs, guiding principles that help us stay connected to a common belief and to those who hold those common beliefs
- "Keep Pounding" unites Panthers fans
- But they also help us remember what and who matters most
- Like a touchstone, they keep bringing us back to what we believe

Ok, so that was a lot, and what I want to do this morning is begin to walk through the 105 words of The Apostles Creed I want you to see how this creed has helped followers of Jesus stay together through the years

Let me repeat something before we dive in: creeds aren't (or shouldn't be) just for formal churches or smart people They were written so that common men and women could know the fundamental doctrines and be more focused on what we have in common than what we don't

So don't be intimidated. First up, a quick history lesson:

1. Apostles Creed 101

- a. First, it wasn't written by the apostles.
- b. The Apostle's Creed is esteemed by many churches as an example of the apostles' teachings and a defense of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It contains 105 words, and here they are:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And 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, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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

- c. It is believed to have come from an early Roman baptismal creed, but the first mention of The Apostles Creed in early writings was in a letter to the Pope in 390 AD.
- d. The Creed is believed to have been a statement against an early heresy known as Gnosticism
 - Gnostics saw the world as separate: Good/Bad, Spirit/Matter, Christ/Jesus, Father God/Demiurge
 - Gnostics believed God didn't create the world because a holy God would never create evil matter
 - Gnostics taught that that Christ only appeared to become man, and he didn't really suffer and die
 - Much of the wording in the Creed is used to specifically address these errors
 - **The Apostles Creed helps ground us in truth and guard us from error**
- e. What we want to do over the next 2 Sundays is to take a look at each of the sections in the Creed and understand them a little more.

2. Walking through the Creed

- a. "I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;"
 - When I say that the Father is also the Maker, then I allow every view of creation to call me to intimacy with the Creator
 - **Rom. 1:20** / creation testifies of the Creator!
- b. "And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord"
 - We affirm that Jesus is the Messiah - not just a human body
 - **John 3:16** / He is the Son sent for the children who went astray
- c. "Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,"
 - Gnostics couldn't understand how a holy God would become part of such a corrupt world and so they came up with a doctrine that made it less messy
 - But the heart of the gospel is that God came near to us - Immanuel
 - **John 1:14** / the Word became human and made his home with us (NLT)
 - The Message says that "the Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood"
- d. "Suffered under Pontius Pilate,"
 - Jesus is in history
 - He wasn't a myth or a fairy tale - we can access records
- e. "Was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead;"
 - Gnostics believed that the divine part of Jesus left before the cross and never died or rose again
 - **1 Cor. 15:14** / the resurrection is non-negotiable
- f. "He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;"
 - Some later forms of the Creed include "he descended into hell"
 - Not everyone agrees on this - its inclusion or meaning - so we haven't included it
 - But what we do know is that Jesus is interceding for us right now at the right hand of God
- g. "From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead."
 - Y'all, Jesus may be seated, but he won't stay seated
 - He is coming again, and he will come as a judge - what have you done in regards to Jesus?

The Landing

That's how I want us to end this morning's message - by calling you to make a decision about how what you believe will affect how you live.

If we believe in God as the Maker, then we'll live in a way that honors what he made

If we believe that Jesus is interceding for us, then we'll live in a way that believes his prayers make a difference

If we believe that he's coming again, we'll live with an urgency of eternity

Today is the day of salvation - so call on the name of Jesus now and you will be saved

Let's pray