

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

The Take-Off

Let's do some quick recapping, alright?

First, why a series called Remix?

Because God is doing something new that doesn't discount the old; it adds a new sound to it just like a remix gives a new sound to an old song.

The truth of God from the beginning doesn't change even as methods may change.

If we don't know the original song, we'll never produce a remix. I would even suggest that many are struggling with what "church" might look like going forward because we've forgotten that WE ARE THE CHURCH and a building isn't.

Second, how do creeds fit into the remix?

They are like a touchstone - we can come back to them and remember what and who matters most

They unify us around what we all believe instead of dividing us over what some believe.

"Keep Pounding" is clear and unites Panthers fans even when those same fans don't all agree on what the team does

So as the remix gets messy, we lean into what we hold in common

The Apostles Creed is the most well-known of the early church creeds, and last week we started looking at the individual sections of it.

As a refresher, the Creed states:

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

Last week we looked at the first 2 sections and this morning we'll look at the last big section.

Let's take it one phrase at a time.

1. Walking through the Creed

a. "I believe in the Holy Spirit"

- First things first, Christians believe in the Holy Spirit
- Now, we may not all believe the same about how he operates, but we agree that the HS is God
- The trinity is a hard concept to grasp: one God in three persons
 - I am one man who is at one time a father, a son, a husband, a brother, a pastor, etc.
 - Each role looks a little different, but I am the same man
 - Sometimes we think the Spirit is a force, but he isn't - he is God as much as the Father and Son
- **Acts 5:3-4** / Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit which was equal with lying to God
- So often Pentecostals are warned not to grieve the Holy Spirit
- If he can be grieved, he isn't a force
- But what grieves him?
- **Eph. 4:30** is a warning given in the middle of Paul's instructions about how we're supposed to interact with one another
- Error in teaching about the Holy Spirit wasn't what grieved him; it was error in how living the faith that grieved him
- **Rom. 8:15** and **Gal. 4:6** / the Holy Spirit places us in a family with Abba Father and his children
- I'm not sure that a church service will grieve him, but the lack of the church serving one another will

b. "The holy catholic church"

- This doesn't mean we're pledging allegiance to the Roman Catholic Church
- The word "catholic" simply means universal - a church that is bigger than you, me, or these 4 walls

- All of us want to be part of something that is bigger than us
 - When you and I begin to follow Jesus, we become part of a body that is bigger than one generation and one country
 - God isn't American - neither is the church
 - **1 Peter 5:9** / There is strength in numbers when we're under attack
- c. "The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins"
- These are phrases about the entire family of God that are expressed in the local family of God
 - **Communion** isn't about the act of communion with bread and juice, but the act of communion in life and faith together
 - **Hebrews 10:19-25**
 - v. 19 / "brothers and sisters" - language of family
 - vv. 20-21 / all about what Jesus did
 - vv. 22-23 / all about what we have because of what Jesus did
 - v. 24 / "AND" means that there's more than just what came before it
 - vv. 24-25 / communion together is a big part of how we find encouragement
 - v. 25 / we need this all the more as the Day approaches
 - Ask yourself why the enemy is trying so hard to divide and conquer now? The Day is approaching!
 - When it comes to encouraging each other, nothing is more encouraging than **forgiveness**
 - **1 John 1:8** / all of us need forgiveness from God
 - **Eph. 4:31-32** / all of us need forgiveness from each other
 - Remember that verse about not grieving the Holy Spirit? These verses show us how to make sure we don't: get rid of ALL bitterness, rage, anger, brawling, slander, malice and be kind, compassionate, and forgiving
- d. "The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen."
- As we end the Creed, let's remember this: if Jesus rose, so will we.
 - **1 Thess. 4:16** / the dead WILL be raised to life
 - We believe in a gospel of hope!
 - **2 Cor. 4:17** / whatever we face here is achieving more for us there

The Landing

Let's close out our study of The Apostles Creed this way:

Remember our Big Idea from last week? **The Apostles Creed helps ground us in truth and guard us from error.**

The truth is that there is everlasting life. The error is that there won't be everlasting death.

Jesus is going to "judge the quick (living) and the dead"

2 Peter 3:9 / God doesn't want any to perish but for all to repent and know him

To repent simply means to turn right and go straight

To change your ways, accept God's, and never turn back

I want to lead you in that prayer as we close today.

Let's pray