

THE Apostles' CREED

May 7, 2023

OPENING QUESTION

Needs an Opening Question!

This week we find ourselves right in the center of the Apostles' Creed, this time tested summary of the beliefs of Jesus Christ's followers. This concise description of Jesus work during His time on earth as well as His present and future work in the world is the anchor for our souls that provides the hope we have in our relationship with God! Yet it also contains some of confusing and obscure language, topics we don't often chat through on Sunday mornings. There are extra resources in the side panel if you have questions and would like to explore more; we'll keep our main focus on what it means to believe in Jesus death, resurrection, and return.

READ 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 and Colossians 1:18-22

How would you explain or define "reconciliation?" Can you describe an example of reconciliation?

- Based on this understanding, can you explain in your own words *why* it is such good news that Jesus "suffered...died...was buried?" How do His actions and work on the cross apply to your life?

Why do you need to be *reconciled* to God? Consider this quote:

"Whatever is broken in our life - our pain points, desires, yearnings for more - are not our actual problems; they are symptoms that sprout from our ultimate issue: we were created by God to commune with God and do life with one another and sin fractured both when it entered the cosmos." ([Chandler](#))

- Compare and contrast this description of why things feel wrong in the world with how culture might explain the same pains, desires and struggles?
- Return to 2 Corinthians 5:21: Do you *believe* this is true?
- How does that belief shape your thoughts, attitudes, words and actions?

READ Ephesians 2:1,4-7; Colossians 3:1-3

Which is harder for you to *believe*: that Jesus was dead and was raised to life, or that you have been raised to new life with Him?

- How does believing in Jesus' resurrection create hope in you?
 - Consider both hope for today, and hope for the future.

READ Matthew 24:36-51

What stands out to you in this passage? What does it show you about Jesus, or about God?

- How often do you think about Jesus' return?
- How does a *belief* in Jesus' coming again reshape your thoughts about sin?
 - How does it change your thoughts about sharing the good news of Jesus with someone?
 - How could it reshape your prayers?

Look back at 2 Corinthians 5:17-21:

- What feelings might you experience if you had knowledge *without belief* of these two realities (Jesus' death and resurrection, and His coming judgment)?
- How does a *belief* in Jesus death and resurrection change those feelings?

FROM THE MESSAGE

Paragraph that sets the stage for the passage or discussion.

DAILY TIME

John 14
John 15
John 16
John 17
Romans 12
Revelation 21-22

As you read each day, consider:

- What do these passages show me about God and His character?
- What do they highlight about what we **believe**?
- How can I ask God for help based on these verses?

EVENT

Date and Time

SIGN UP TO SERVE!

Encounterchurch.org/serve

NOTES AND QUOTES

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to 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.

"Descended into hell" (or "descended to the dead") are odd phrases that we don't spend time talking about! Please consider these resources from Joe Rigby:

- [He Descended into Hell](#)
- [Holy Saturday](#)

Question

- Follow up or clarifying question

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EXTRA Read Revelation 20:11-15

This passage is intended to engender hope in believers! How does what you know about the nature and character of God, along with the truths about Jesus we've considered today, help you to see this as good news?

CLOSE WITH PRAYER

Spend time in prayer for one another, if possible, about the things you have discussed here.

PRAYER AND CARE

Reminders for the week ahead:

John 21:1-9

¹After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. ²Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his

disciples were together. ³Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.