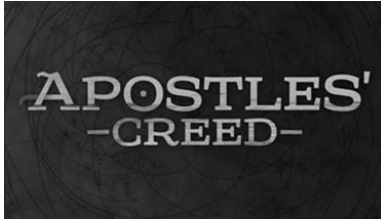


Apostles' Creed, part THREE

February 22, 23, 25



I believe in... (Jesus) Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the spirits in hell. The third day he arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? **Circle Two Opportunity...**

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth
2. Stronger "iron sharpening iron" relationships

Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV) ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator 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, died, and was buried. He descended to the spirits in hell. The third day he arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HERB: coming to understand that a prime purpose of this study is to discover the TRUE Jesus by peeling away cultural and American Christianity's false and superficial ideas to see the Bible's genuine revelation.

Matthew 7:21–23 (ESV) ²¹"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²²On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

From February 11: Believing the Truth about Jesus' life on earth

"Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried"

Part 1 Jesus' Incarnation – SCANDALOUS!! Everything was opposite of proper

↓ Jesus's conception was all wrong

Luke 1:26-37 (ESV) (pew Bible page 855-856)

↓ Jesus's birth was all wrong

Luke 2:4-7 (ESV) (pew Bible page 857)

Luke 2:15–16 (ESV) (pew Bible page 857)

↓ Jesus grew up all wrong.

John 1:46 (ESV) (pew Bible page 856)

Marginalize - *to think, say or act as if a person is unimportant or powerless in positively effecting change in society or is identified by society as a member of lower ranking social group*

- Jesus is able to understand how we feel and can relate to us in every circumstance of our lives.
- There is nothing that seems so outlandish that Jesus cannot understand.
- He can understand the cause of every temptation we have.
- Due to His birth and life on earth Jesus is able to relate to all of mankind!

Applying to our lives:

- ✓ Are we willing to be marginalized in the earthly realm culture?
- ✓ Are we willing to not “look good” to obey God?
- ✓ Are willing to be counter cultural as it relates to our faith, our marriages, singleness, or parenting?
- ✓ Are we willing to do the unusual, especially in caring for the “least of these?”

Part 2 Jesus’s Ministry - RADICAL!!

Luke 4:14-18 (ESV) (pew Bible page 859-860)

Truth: Jesus is radical and unexpected. He did not do the normal, the status quo

† Jesus is the Good news

Luke 7:22 (ESV)

† Jesus is our model

Biblical worldview

† Jewish people were looking for the Messiah who would come with a conquering army not as a baby.

† Jesus is the only healer, miracle worker, promise keeper

John 1:49-51 (ESV) (pew Bible page 856)

Applying to Our Lives – Living radical ourselves

➤ We need to live radical and unexpected, not status quo

Luke 4:18 (ESV) ¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

➤ We need to be Jesus’ arm, hands, feet, ears and mouth

Matthew 10:5-8 ⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.

➤ We need to live like Jesus

Philippians 4:13 (ESV) ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Part 3 : Jesus's death – UNEXPECTED! – seemed so wrong, but it was perfect as God designed

John 18:7-11 (ESV) (pew Bible page 904)

Mark 14:55, 60-64 (ESV) (pew Bible page 851-852)

Luke 23:1-16 (ESV) (pew Bible page 883)

Mark 15:6-15 (ESV) (pew Bible page 852)

Mark 15:32-37 (ESV) (pew Bible page 853)

Applying to Our Lives – when life is unexpected, God is still in control, still loves us, still working for good

From February 18: Jesus' deeper victory by His death, resurrection and ascension

He (Jesus) descended to the spirits in hell. The third day he arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,"

1. Truth: Jesus' victory is more than we know.

NOTE: culture and Christianity often more influenced by Dante's inferno and other writings than Bible

Spiritual war for us is bigger, broader, more pervasive than we recognize. There is tendency to dismiss it b/c of our point of reference - thus some dismiss Gen. 6 and 2 Pet 3

AND in the UNSEEN victory was announced that had to rattle the forces of darkness in ways we cannot imagine. Even before the victory was evident on Resurrection Day, there was victory in the Unseen

Genesis 6:1–4 (ESV) (pew Bible page 5)

Jude 5–6 (ESV) (pew Bible page 1027)

1 Peter 3:18–22 (ESV) (pew Bible page 1016)

IMPORTANT: Jesus did not just win, He DEFEATED COMPLETELY

2. Worldview and Application.

Romans 8:31–39 (ESV) (pew Bible page 944-945)

✓ HOW WE SEE

So, so hard to

1. embrace the Unseen in daily lives
2. accept we are a part of God's creation along with another supernatural family/reality/ existence and thus stop thinking we humans are the center and the highest form of life

✓ HOW WE LIVE - IMPACT this statement should have on us:

→ Hope

Jesus is truly in charge, especially when it doesn't appear so

Since Jesus was doing that in the Unseen, we can be confident that He is all powerful in our lives to be working when we don't see

→ Awe

so much more to God and His creation than we could understand

→ Trust that leads to commitment

because evil is more than we know, thus recognizing that God is protecting so much more than we will ever see – more behind the scenes

without God putting limit on demonic forces, we would be destroyed

→ Obedience

free will, the personal authority carries with it responsibility to obey and follow b/c God leaves more up to us than we realize.

why does evil continue to exist? for that very reason. It's not that God is not intimately present, but that He has given us resp. that He will not usurp – freedom to honor Him or do evil. God is much less in control (though ultimately in charge) than we realize as we see with the fallen angels

→ Perspective

since God is so involved, working so intricately, putting satan in his place, it gives us the perspective of a deeper Romans 8:28 and Rev 21-22

Takeaways...



New Song
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