



Apostles' Creed, part SIX

March 14-17

I believe in ... the holy universal church, the communion of saints

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.

INTRODUCTION

Items of Note

- ✓ **"Throne Room" Time priority** – pay attention to insights & nudges as God's interaction from Unseen. stay alert for enemy schemes in unobvious ways, then stand against.
- ✓ **Week of Fasting with Prayer and PRAYER GATHERING**

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.

"I believe in ... the holy universal church, the communion of saints"

OBJECTIVE: review Biblical church, but go deeper with the interaction between the Seen and Unseen

Living God's priorities for His family/army

1. God's true holy universal Church.

Ephesians 1:19–23 (ESV) (pew Bible page 976)

- ✓ Church – "ekklesia", Greek word of "assembly"
New Testament: the church is army of Christ, family of God with Christ as our sibling, Body of Christ, Bride of Christ, flock of Christ, branches of Christ Who is the Vine, living stones of the house of God, temple of the Spirit
- ✓ holy – "set apart; belonging to God alone"
- ✓ universal – all Christ-followers, everywhere - original used "catholic", Latin root "universal"

Romans 12:4–5 (ESV) ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

- ✓ Big "C" Church and little "c" church – nuclear and extended family

ALL ABOUT JESUS, from beginning to end! Jesus...

We have to move our starting point, our point of reference to Christ from us – and THAT is one of the hardest things we will ever do

Matthew 16:18 (ESV) ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

- ➔ Jesus created the church at Pentecost
- ➔ Jesus owns – belongs to Him
- ➔ Jesus empowers, sustains, directs, protects and more
- ➔ Jesus will return for

SO WHAT?

- † the church of Jesus is not an organization, but an organism. It is not a business, but a Body. It is not a democracy, but ruled by Jesus Himself
- † IT IS HARD WORK TO TRULY BE THE CHURCH
- † “we reach our hands in fellowship to every blood washed one”
Nepali congregation/ Hosting Grace Wellness/ Hosting pastor conferences
Individually – viewing other congregations as extended family

2. God’s design for the entwinement of His children.

the communion of saints”

- ✓ “saints” – holy ones, those belonging to Christ
- ✓ “communion” – spiritual unity or interconnectedness
- ✓ entwined with Christ-followers in the Seen Reality
this defines the relationship among those in Jesus’ church as seen above
- ✓ entwined with Christ-followers in the Unseen Reality

HERB: I’ve had a growing sense that there is more going on in the Unseen

SO, SO, SO MANY SCRIPTURES that we commonly view as metaphor, I’m seeing as reality as God convicts me as me being the point of reference

I’ve been experiencing the Spirit point at stuff... accept... adjust... SLO for past few years, so if this seems a bit “out there”, it’s okay... don’t reject it... take it to the Bible and prayer to ask God to lead you to what is true

there is much interaction between the Seen and Unseen

REALITY CHECK: the Seen and Unseen are present together here and now – HR is not “out there”, it is invisible around us – and it is the most true reality

- ➔ Unseen is the truer reality – we are to live in the Seen from there

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (ESV) (pew Bible page 965)

2 Corinthians 5:7 (ESV) ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight.

- ➔ the Holy Spirit, angels, demons cross from Unseen to Seen
quick review of Gospels and Acts reveals A LOT of instances of this – interaction from one to the other

Hebrews 13:2 (ESV) Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

1 Corinthians 4:9 (ESV) For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men.

Romans 8:38–39 ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Corinthians 13:1 (ESV) If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

Galatians 1:8 (ESV) But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

Angels and demons interacting with humans in Gospels

Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, shepherds in the events of Jesus' incarnation

Matthew 4:6 (ESV) ⁶and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, " 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and " 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.' "

Matthew 4:11 (ESV) ¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Matthew 18:10 (ESV) ¹⁰"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 28:5 (ESV) ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.

Luke 15:10 (ESV) ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Luke 22:43 (ESV) ⁴³And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.

John 1:49–51 (ESV) ⁴⁹Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

Angels intervening in Acts

Acts 5:19 (ESV) ¹⁹But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said,

Acts 8:26 (ESV) ²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place.

Acts 10:3–7 (ESV)

Acts 12:7–11 (ESV)

Acts 12:21–23 (ESV) ²¹On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. ²²And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" ²³Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.

Acts 27:22–24 (ESV) ²²Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. ²³For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, ²⁴and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.'

► actions in one reality have impact on the other

Ephesians 3:10–11 so that **through the church** the manifold wisdom of God might now be **made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places**. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Daniel 10:1-14

1 Timothy 5:21 (ESV) In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality.

Matthew 27:51–53 (ESV) ⁵¹And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

► humans have crossed from one reality to the other

Those who died and live in the Unseen appearing in the Seen

Luke 9:28–31 (ESV) (pew Bible page 867) Also in Matthew 17:1-8

²⁸Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. ³⁰And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, ³¹who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

Acts 1:9–11 (ESV) ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

HERB: 2 "men" not angels – had flippantly assumed that they were angels but the disciples mistook them for men, but... that's NOT what the Bible says.

Paul still alive on earth, living in the Seen going into the Unseen

2 Corinthians 12:2–4 (ESV) ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.

→ what if dying is a transfer, redeployment, reassignment instead of retirement?

Since Jesus is working at the right hand of Father, the Holy Spirit is working, the angels are working, Elijah and Moses had at least one assignment after death, **does it make sense that our work for God would wait until Jesus' return?**

Hebrews 12:1–3 (ESV) (pew Bible page 1008)

SO WHAT?

More serious in living for the Unseen as we live in the Seen

What do we do with this?

TWO BIG TAKEAWAYS TODAY

1. "isn't this fun?!"
2. Dying is a transfer not retirement or removal or out of the game
These two transform us at soul level

Takeaways...



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