Biblical Basis of the Apostles’ Creed



 *March 2*

**CONTEXT:** In the second part of the Apostles’ Creed we learned what the Bible says about key aspects of Jesus’s wider story. Jesus is real, was rejected, is risen, ascended, ruling and returning. Today we’re going to focus on the third portion of the Creed about the Holy Spirit who applies the work of Redemption.

***Challenge:*** Christians have memorized this creed for centuries, might you memorize the Apostles Creed?

**FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP** (Mk 8:34–38)

* Where do the Gospels place greater emphasis: believing or following Jesus?
* How does following show true belief?
* V. 34 (IF)- what is necessary to follow Jesus?
* What do these principles look like as actions in the life of true followers?
* Vv. 35–38 (FOR)- what are the consequences if we don’t follow Jesus?

**READ:** The Apostles’ Creed (over)

**QUESTIONS:**

*\*The next two WWBWWB evening sermons will be on the Holy Spirit.*

1. *The Holy Spirit is often referred to as the ‘left-overs’ of the Trinity.* **Do we talk about the Holy Spirit enough?**
2. In Jn 16:4b–15 what is the role of the Holy Spirit?
3. **At the end of the 19th Century William Booth foresaw a century of “religion without the Holy Ghost.” Was this true of the last century and if so why?**
4. **How does the Holy Spirit relate to each point in the last section of the Creed?**

The Holy Catholic [Universal] Church

1. **How does the Holy Spirit make the Church holy? (Eph 5:25).**
2. **Though once visibly united today it is visibly divided. Why is this? Is there any hope of re-unification?**
3. **What is the true Catholic church?**

The Communion of Saints

1. Who or what is a saint? (1 Cor 1:2)
2. *One definition of fellowship is Christian’s sharing in the “bond of the Holy Spirit.”* **How is the Church a supernatural community? What has been your experience of such fellowship or community?**

The Forgiveness of Sins

1. **How does the Spirit give us assurance that our sins have been forgiven when we trust in Christ?** (1 Jn 5:6; Ro 8:16)
2. Why is it so important to know your sins are forgiven?

The Resurrection of the Body

1. A real body: **How is Jesus’ own Resurrection the foretaste of the believer’s, why is this good news (Ro 6:5)?**
2. A central hope: Beyond floating on clouds and playing harps how is eternity so much more than sometimes perceived? **Why will we not be content in heaven but await the Resurrection? (Phil 3:20)**
3. An event of debated details: Some Christians believe in 1 Resurrection (all people at the coming of Christ, c.f. Jn 5:28–29; Acts 24:15) and others in 2 (of believers before the millennium and of unbelievers at the end of the millennium, c.f. Rev 20:5–6). Which view corresponds best?

The Life Everlasting

1. Read 2 Pe 3:13- What is our ultimate hope?
2. **John Stott said, “The Christian faith is life lived in the Spirit.” How is the Holy Spirit essential to Christian living?**

**NEXT TIME:** March 9th- The Ten Commandments.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, 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 dead;
And on the third day He rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty,
from thence He shall 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.