

Creed

What You Believe Matters

Week 4 | Creed | November 15

Key Focus: The Holy Spirit.

Opening Up:

If you could have anyone's voice, whose voice would you want? What would you do with that voice?

If you could speak to any audience and deliver any message perfectly, to whom would you speak and what would you say?

Read the Apostles' Creed.

Reference: Romans 8:1-17

Discuss:

1. Romans 8:11 says that the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you as a believer. So what does that mean? What makes this easy or hard to believe?
2. Why do we need the Holy Spirit to remind us that there is "no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"?
3. In Romans 8:4 Paul says that Christians walk "according to the Spirit" that the "Law might be fulfilled in us." The Spirit helps us to fulfill the law, which is to love (Romans 13:10). How does the Holy Spirit help you to love? Have you ever needed supernatural help to love? Explain.
4. In Acts 13:2-3 a community group worshiped, fasted, and prayed. In that environment the Holy Spirit spoke. He called the church to be on mission. The result was that a whole region was reached (Acts 13:49). What might it look like for our community to live like this? What keeps us from living like this? What would we have to believe to live like this?
5. On Sunday Nate quoted from a recent article he had written. He said, "Christians often don't live up to their missional potential because no spiritual person has ever prayed for, fasted over, or sent them." What do you think about this? Have you been called to mission? How can we pray for you as a group?
6. Chadwick writes: "The practical application of charity was probably the most potent single cause of Christian success. The pagan comment 'See how these Christians love each other' (reported by Tertullian) was not irony. Christian charity expressed itself in care for the poor, for widows and orphans, in visits to brethren in prison or condemned to death in labour in mines, and social action in time of calamity like famine, earthquake, pestilence, or war." Chadwick says, this is what fueled the rapid growth of Christianity, i.e. love. In what ways does Albuquerque need love? How can our church or community group bring that love?
7. Paul says, "Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him." (Romans 8:9) The Holy Spirit takes our focus off of ourselves and onto God and others (Romans 8:5-80). How has the Holy Spirit changed your mind?
8. In Romans 8:13 Paul calls us "to put to death the dead" of our sinful self-focused nature. What is difficult about putting sins to death in your life? How do you do it?
9. How does the Spirit of adoption drive out fear (Romans 8:15)? How has the Spirit helped you to know God as your Father?
10. Pray.

Apostles' Creed

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.

*that is, the true Christian church of all times and all places