

# Creed

What You Believe Matters

## Week 5 | Creed | November 22

### Key Focus: Church unity and growth.

#### Opening Up:

What daily activity in your life leaves you feeling most satisfied? Explain.

What daily activity could you do without? Explain.

#### Read the Apostles' Creed.

#### Reference: Ephesians 4:1-16

#### Discuss:

1. In Ephesians 4:12 we read that God gave gifts "for building up of the body of Christ." How have you used your gifts to build up the church? What gifts could be using to build up the body of Christ?
2. In what ways have you benefited by the giftedness of someone else in the church? Explain.
3. In Ephesians 4:11 we see some gifts listed. He gave some to be apostles (ones who are sent), prophets (ones who know), evangelists (ones who recruit), shepherds (ones who care), and teachers (ones who instruct). Which of those gifting resonate with you?
4. Alan Roxburgh says, for those born between 1925 and 1945 there's a 60% chance you're in a church today; for those born between 1946 and 1964 it's 40%; for those born between 1965 and 1983 it's 20%; and if you were born after 1984 there is a less than 10% chance you're in a church today. Why do you think this is happening? What can the church do about it? What gifts are being called on the church? How can you be a part of the solution?
5. In verse 14 we find that when the body is working properly the church receives discernment. How has the church made you a better decision maker?
6. In verse 2 we see that the body rightly working looks more selfless and less selfish. How has the church helped you to love others better?
7. In verse 15 we see that the result of a church wisely using her giftedness is Christ likeness. How can the church more wisely use her gifted people? How have you become more like Jesus because of the church?
8. 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