

Creed

What You Believe Matters

Week 6 | Creed | November 29

Key Focus: Resurrection of the Body

Opening Up:

Christians believe that ordinary life is going to be redeemed; that all of the wrongs of life will be undone. Occasionally we get glimpses of uncorrupted life. Can you think of a moment that points you to the resurrection of all things?

What ordinary thing in life gives you a significant feeling of joy?

Read the Apostles' Creed.

Reference: Romans 8:17-39

Discuss:

1. For many people the holiday's bring up some negative feelings. In what ways have you experienced flashbacks of unforgiveness of yourself or others? If the holidays are a truly joyful time in the whole, why do you think that is? Where does the credit go for a great family tradition?
2. J.I. Packer wrote, "The pathetic truth is that we sinners are self-righteous to the core, and we are constantly justifying ourselves, and we hate admitting that there is anything seriously wrong with us, anything that God or man might seriously hold against us; and we have to do violence to our own perverted instincts at this point before faith is possible for us." What does he mean we have "to do violence... to our instincts"? How do you do that?
3. In what ways (8:18) does the future glory out way our present suffering? If we know that we are heirs to the King of all kings and that our inheritance is secure, how does that change the way you experience everyday life?
4. In Romans 8:22, 23 we read the whole creations and we ourselves are eagerly anticipating the renewal of all things. How have you experienced the breakdown of your body and/or any of creation recently? How has that made you feel? How does our future hope speak to your feelings associated with this breakdown?
5. Has the Spirit ever helped you in your weakness? (8:26-27)
6. Look at the five questions of Romans 8:31-36. Which question stands out to you most? How do you need that question and its response?
7. How does Romans 8:37-39 make you feel? Is it hard to believe? Why?
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