

I BELIEVE... — WEEK #1 — APOSTLES' CREED

ROMANS 10:9-10

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

SYMMETRY:

The creed helps us develop a deeper, more knowledgeable faith—to know what we believe and why.

Clarity:

The creed helps us with clarity, making clear who God is.

Community:

The creed informs our community, whom we belong to, and whom we're with.

Counsel:

The creed informs the way we counsel ourselves and others.

A creed is a document that lays out the essential beliefs of a religion. Creeds do not hold any authority in and of themselves, but rather, they point outside themselves to the ultimate authority of the Word of God.

The Apostles' Creed has been used—

- to correct false teaching;
- as a tool in the spiritual formation of God's people.

Believing is different than knowing. Believing leads to action and knowing may or may not. Believing is birthed in the heart.

The message of the Christian faith isn't that we have done anything, but rather that we have believed that Someone else has. This is the primary difference between the gospel and every other religion.

We aren't chained to rote religious activity, but we have a Savior who has accomplished all that we desire for us.

I BELIEVE... — WEEK #1 — APOSTLES' CREED DISCUSSION/REFLECTION GUIDE

As we look at the Apostles' Creed, we will see that the message of Christianity is not “do this or that,” but rather about what our God has done. That does not mean that the Creed does not demand anything of us—the Creed demands everything from us—it asks us to believe.

The Apostles' Creed shows us what is primary.

Why do you think Christians have recited the words of this creed for centuries together in churches?

What is significant about the first word of the Apostles' Creed?

Why is it important for Christians to articulate and agree on what we believe?

Why is it important to distinguish between the authority of Scripture and of a creed? How is the authority of Scripture greater?

How do belief and action relate to salvation? What distinction was made between knowing and believing?

This ancient creed summarizes the cardinal tenets of Christian belief, including those affirmations of the confessing church that capture the very essence of Christian thought and faith. It boldly declares that there is truth that is foundational to life, a truth that cannot be compromised without the peril of falling into the abyss of meaninglessness.—R. C. Sproul, What We Believe: Understanding and Confessing the Apostles' Creed