

Confirmation

A Salem Tabernacle Curriculum of the Christian Faith

Session 8: The Creeds

The Creeds

What are the creeds: The creeds are statements of our basic beliefs about God.

- The creeds of the church are the product of the church working through their faith corporately
- The creeds took centuries to develop + maintain with some debate, they are the basic tenants of biblical faith
- The two main creeds are the Nicene Creed and the Apostles Creed: Divinity of Christ + prayer = purpose

What is the Apostles' Creed and what is the Nicene Creed: The apostles Creed is generally used in Baptism and the Nicene Creed is generally used in Eucharistic services.

- **The Apostles Creed** used at Baptism: "I believe" is about to become a "We believe" b/c baptism = new family
- **The Nicene Creed** used at Eucharist b/c now this is the meal of "We believe" b/c we have been baptized
- As Convergent Christians we are not beholden to one creed: We see value in all the gifts of the church

Why are the Creeds important to our Christian worship and witness: The creeds are important to our witness and worship as they are means of grace given by God, through the Spirit for unity.

- **Life is only lived forward but can only be understood backwards: Soren Kierkegaard**
- The Creeds are a genealogy of theological truth: they remind us that we are part of a history: **Deuteronomy 26**
- Help us maintain Unity of the Spirit: These are the boundaries markers that we get to work within: The Edges

What anchors the creeds that makes them trustworthy: The Creeds are trustworthy because they are rooted in scripture, history and center on the Godhead; the Trinity.

- God the Father = Genesis/Gospels + Jesus Only Son: **John 3:16** + Holy Spirit: whole cannon + Apostolic: **Matt 16:18**
 - **Ephesians 2:19-20** + **Revelation 5:9-10** + **Ephesians 4:4-6** = some verses that make up the creed
 - Pilate + Mary anchor in History and all three stanzas are Father + Son + Spirit = Church
- o Confirmation is a commitment to live as unified as the Trinity: **John 17:20-21** = Bottle pouring analogy