



sermon notes

The Church & Communion of Saints

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The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead, and buried;

the third day he rose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Brief review

- The Apostles did not write the Creed themselves. The Creed is based on the teachings that Jesus taught the Apostles.
- The Apostles' Creed is arguably the oldest, comprehensive creed in Christianity.
- The Apostles' Creed is agreed upon by every Christian denomination (i.e., Catholics and Protestants).
- Everybody believes in something. Everyone has a creed they live by. What you believe shapes you and determines the way you understand the world and the people around you.

Two of the most misunderstood statements in the Apostles' Creed:

The holy universal church

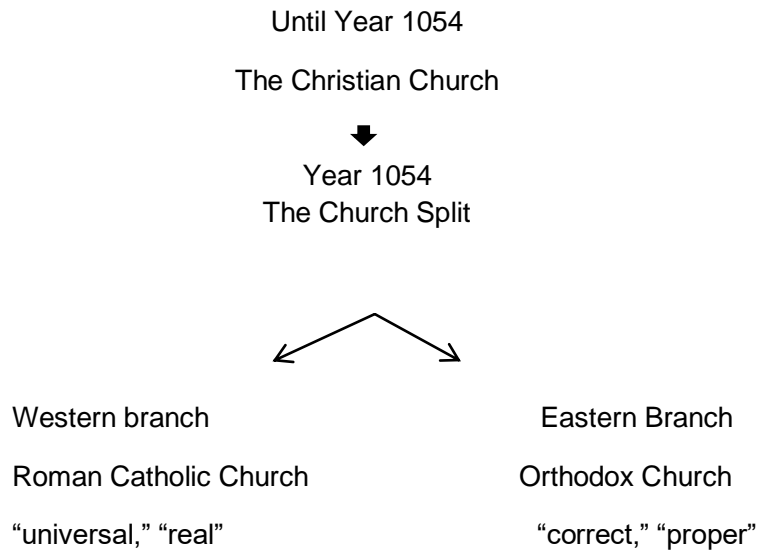
The communion of saints

1. The holy universal church

- The original language is "the holy _____ church."
- "catholic" with a small "c" means _____.
 - The entire body of Christ
 - All followers of Christ of every tribe, nation and language

The reason it is confusing is whenever we hear the word “catholic” we think of “Catholic,” with a capital “C,” which refers to the Roman Catholic Church.

Brief Church History



We must be:

one in _____

one in _____

one in _____

2. The communion of saints

THE CONFUSION:

- The word “saints” often refers to those specifically set apart by the Roman Catholic Church as persons worthy of honor and reverence.
- The word “Communion” most often refers to the Lord’s Supper.

IN THE CREED:

- The word “saints” refers to _____ who are followers of Jesus.
As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the saints in Lydda. Acts 9:32 (NIV)
*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus.* Ephesians 1:1 (NIV)
- The “communion” of saints
 - Here, the word “communion” means _____.
 - We assemble together as Christians to worship, to fellowship, and to share deeply in a relationship with God and each other.

Even more than that . . .

Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! . . . Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it . . . When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item . . . That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!

Hebrews 12:1–3 (MSG)

- We stand on the shoulders of the pioneers and veterans of our faith who have gone before us.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Who are the pioneers or veterans of the faith in your life?

Who are you forever and eternally grateful to
for introducing you to Jesus?