

Life Group Notes

Sunday 2nd April 2023

Speaker: Andy McCullough

Title: The Apostles' Creed: Jesus

Passage: John 1:1-14

*I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.*

Read John 1:1-14

God's only Son.

Son as eternally begotten. There wasn't a time in history or eternity past when Jesus didn't exist. Col 1:15-17.

"If there was once a time when the Son didn't exist, then there was once a time when the Father was not yet a Father. And if that is the case, then once upon a time God was not loving since all by himself he would have had nobody to love." *Michael Reeves*

Son as representative. (Heb 1.3, John 12:44-45, Matt 11:27, I Jn 2:23). Jesus represents the Father, he makes the Invisible One visible.

Born of the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:34-35).

Jesus was Human. Trauma of birth canal. Born through the uncleanness of blood. Word became flesh.

Jesus was Sinless. Break with inherited sin through Adam. Only person ever born who did not have a human father. Free to make a new family (Heb 4:15).

Suffered under Pontius Pilate. In real history. Maps the who thing out of legend and places it in real history.

Was crucified. Crucifixion was torture. Crucifixion was public. Crucifixion was shameful.

Died. So the evidence is strong that Jesus actually died. Why is it important that Christ died for our sins? Because sacrifices die. Because the penalty for sin is death (Rom 6:23). Because death is an end/ the way out (Rom 6:5-8).

He descended to the dead

"But after explaining what Christ endured in the sight of man, the Creed appropriately adds the invisible and incomprehensible judgement which he endured before God, to teach us that not only was the body of Christ given up as the price of redemption, but that there was a greater and more excellent price – that he bore in his soul the tortures of condemned and ruined man." *John Calvin*

Suggested Questions:

1. Why do you think it matters that Jesus is the Son of God?
2. What do you think about the virgin birth? Why is this important?
3. What is the significance of Jesus dying by crucifixion?
4. What does the death of Jesus achieve for us?
5. What do you think "he descended to the dead" means? Why does this matter?
6. Spend some time worshipping Jesus for his life, death, and resurrection.