

Life Group Notes

Sunday 26th March 2023

Speaker: Andy McCullough

Title: The Apostles' Creed: God

Passage: The Creed / Lines 1-2

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

The Creed is Ancient: Written in 2nd century in Rome. One of the earliest summaries of what Christians believe.

The Creed is a Narrative: The Bible is one big story, with a beginning, a middle and an end, and the creed follows this plotline.

The Creed is Trinitarian: It is in three sections, God (Father), Jesus Christ his only son our Lord, Holy Spirit.

The Creed is Universally recognised: All churches around the world – all major denominations- use this creed.

I believe. Although the creed is read corporately, it is declared individually. Belief is more than intellectual assent to the existence of God.

In God, the father almighty. Begins with the oneness of God, like Jesus does in Mark 12. God is eternally Father to the Son (Eph 1:3), God is Father to all people through creation (Is 64:8, Eph 4:6), God is especially father to believers in Christ (Eph 1:5), Father not mother (Gen 1:27). God is not gendered. Male and female were both created in his image. But the consistent pronouns given to God in the revelation of scripture are he\him. Perfect fatherhood without the shortcomings of human fathers (James 1:17, Matt 7:11).

Creator of heaven and earth (Gen 1:1, Ps 24:1-2). Immediately de-centres us from the story. Gives us an ecological humility. Also, an aspect of mystery: Includes invisible things. Includes spiritual things. What matters is that he created, not how he created. Creation, too, was subjected to the curse, and needed redemption (Rom 8:20-21). The redemption purchased by Christ has cosmic implications (Col 1:19-20).

Suggested Questions:

1. Reflect on this first declaration of the Apostles' Creed. Do you believe these things? Which bit do you struggle to believe, and why?
2. Why is it important that God is Father?
3. If God is Almighty, he can do anything. Is there anything you are praying for/hoping for that seems impossible? Let's pray!
4. If God made everything, how should we live?
5. How do you feel about God as Creator? What are your questions/ concerns about this?
6. Spend time worshipping the Father, Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.