

Beyond Sunday: Experiencing God's Design for the Church

Week 5: The Church is Creedal

Introduction: I met a Greek Orthodox Bishop once. As we discussed his pattern of spiritual life he asked me if I could recite the creed?

"Which one?" I responded. "The only one," the bishop retorted. Then together we recited the Apostle's Creed. He looked at me dead in the eye and said, "A real Christian knows what he believes and isn't tossed around by the world. Hold on to this faith."

The Creed has no magic power to it. It does affirm the teaching of the Bible, which is more important than anything else the Creed may or may not be. A Christian—whether we realize it or not—is a "creedal" person. That means that a Christian has a standard of belief that affirms one's faith. Paul wrote Timothy saying that the Bible is God's very breath and is useful for preparing any person to live the life God desires them to live!

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."
2nd Timothy 3:16

The Scripture is our foundation for knowing God, loving neighbor and living well. More than believing those words, are you taking them in? Life is found in this book. In order to live it well, we must know it well.

The Big Picture: God is the eternal word by whom all things are made and sustained. The written words of Scripture give us all we need to know God personally and live well today—even in the broken, messy and sin-entangled world around us. "the Bible, all of it, is livable; it is the text for living our lives. It reveals a God-created, God-ordered, God-blessed world in which we find ourselves at home and whole."
— Eugene H. Peterson, ***Eat This Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading***

Discussion:

Share:

- Describe a time in your life it was hard to believe something that someone told you. Why was it hard?
- Describe a time in your life it was easy to believe something that someone told you. Why was it easy?

Discuss:

Sermon Review:

- Review the sermon together using the website or the app. Write down any questions or thoughts that stand out to you as you review the sermon together. Discuss them as a group.

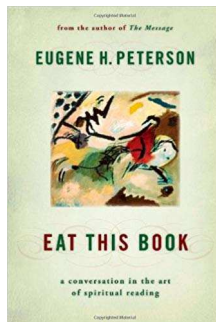
- What is your immediate response to this message?
- Do you agree with Pastor Jeremy that “Receiving the truth is more than just believing something; It is becoming someone!”? Why or why not?
- Why do you think “not looking like a fool” is more important to some people than truth?
- Respond to this statement: “When I am fully engaged in honoring God’s word in my life, I live truly human!”

Unsettled or Uncertain:

- What questions, concerns or doubts do you still have as this discussion wraps up?

Now That You Know:

How will you be more open to the work of God’s word in your life? How might this help you live more fully human?



Further Exploration on this Topic:

Eat this Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading by Eugene Peterson

From the Publisher: Eat This Book challenges us to read the Scriptures on their own terms, as God’s revelation, and to live them as we read them. With warmth and wisdom Peterson offers greatly needed, down-to-earth counsel on spiritual reading. In these pages he draws readers into a fascinating conversation on the nature of language, the ancient practice of *lectio divina*, and the role of Scripture translations.

“Eugene Peterson has written a magnificent book about how to read the Bible. As any editor would say, a book must 'show,' not just 'tell.' Peterson's book does exactly that. The book itself has a biblical quality to it. Peterson uses vivid language; he tells and then reflects on wonderful stories; he invites readers to read their own stories in light of the story. This book is the fruit of decades of reading, pondering, conversing about, praying over, and living this story. Peterson encourages us to read the Bible as if we were dogs gnawing on a bone. Eat This Book made me lick my chops.” Gerald Sittser, author of *A Grace Disguised*.

Link: <https://www.amazon.com/Eat-This-Book-Conversation-Spiritual/dp/0802864902>