



NICENE CREED

WEEK EIGHT

What communities
have you belonged
to?

Let's Read the Creed

Recap

- Week 1-6 - Intro, Father, Son.
- Weeks 7, 8, & 9 - The Spirit
 - 7 - Who the Spirit Is
 - 8 - The Spirit and The Church
 - 9 - The Spirit and Eternity

Reading

- Today: Chapter 1 of *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- Next Week: Intro chapters to *Surprised by Hope* by N.T. Wright

“And we believe in one holy Christian and
apostolic Church;
We acknowledge one Baptism for the
remission of sins;”

Outline Today

1. Re-touching Names of the Spirit
 - a. *Who* the Spirit is and *What* the Spirit does
2. How does He do it? (Language of the Creed)
3. What is the Church? (*Life Together*)

Names of the Spirit

- In OT: *Rûah*
 - Gen. 1:2 - “And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”
 - Jgs. 14:6 - “Then the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon [Samson],”

Names of the Spirit

- In OT: *Rûah*
 - Isa. 11:1-2 - “There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Names of the Spirit

- In NT: *pneuma* (to *hágion*)
 - Mt 4:1 - “Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.”
 - Jn 14:26 - “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”
 - Never “daimónion,” which means “demon”

Names of the Spirit

- In NT: names that describe what He does
 - Jn 14:26 - “But the Helper...”
 - “Paraklete” (Jn 15, 16)
 - Jn 14:17 - “Spirit of Truth”
 - Ro 8:15 - “Spirit of adoption”
 - Ro 8:9, 1 Pe 1:11 - “Spirit of Christ”

How does He do it? (Language of the Creed)

- Through ONE Church
 - We are ONE Church
 - “Catholic” = “according to the whole”
 - “Though with a scornful wonder / Men see her sore oppressed, / By schisms rent asunder, / By heresies distressed.”

How does He do it? (Language of the Creed)

- Through a HOLY Church
 - Eph. 5:25-27 - “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.”

How does He do it? (Language of the Creed)

- Through an APOSTOLIC Church
 - Mt. 16:18 - “On this rock I will build my church.”
 - Built on the Apostles’ teachings that confess Christ!
 - Eph. 2:19-20 - “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone”

How does He do it? (Language of the Creed)

- When do you see/have you seen the Church live as *one, holy, and apostolic*?
- What is one confusion people might have about these teachings?
- Big point: *The Church is the result of the work of the Spirit!*

How does He do it? (Language of the Creed)

- Through one BAPTISM
 - People have “one baptism” in their lifetime
 - Once you’re in the church, you’re in!
 - The Church together has “one baptism”
 - Unity even amid division
 - e.g. We don’t rebaptize Roman Catholic converts
 - e.g. We *do* baptize Mormon or Jehovah’s Witness converts

How does He do it? (Language of the Creed)

- For the FORGIVENESS OF SINS
 - “Everything, therefore, in the Christian Church is ordered toward this goal: we shall daily receive in the Church nothing but the forgiveness of sin through the Word and signs, to comfort and encourage our consciences as long as we live here.”
 - Luther’s Large Catechism

How does He do it? (Language of the Creed)

- We confess: God is at work *through means*
 - The Spirit *could* speak to you directly, but that's not how God has promised to work
 - Notice the difference here between other denominations

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them...”

John 20:21-23

Faith comes from hearing, and hearing
through the word of Christ.

Romans 10:17

“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 2:38

“God is extravagantly rich in his grace...
First, through the spoken word, by
which the forgiveness of sin is preached
in the whole world. **Second**, through
baptism. **Third**, through the holy
Sacrament of the Altar. **Fourth**, through
the power of the keys and also through
the mutual conversation and consolation
of brothers and sisters.”

Luther's Smalcald Articles

What is the Church? (*Life Together*)

- The Church is *people*
 - “The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer” (19).
 - Not anti-spiritual to believe this! Bottom pg.19ff
 - Happens in various places. Mid. pg. 21

What is the Church? (*Life Together*)

- The Church is *created by the Spirit*
 - JESUS' Spirit. Mid pg 21
 - "Extra nos"
 - Not based on human ideas. Pg. 27
 - For US. Pg. 34