

"I Believe in the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints"

I Believe: Understanding the Essence of Christianity

Discussion Questions

- **Read through the Apostles' Creed—what in this creed makes you pause and consider: "do I really believe that?" What words? What phrases?**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

*He was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.*

*He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.*

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

*He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen

- People often get tripped up with the word catholic. But in the sermon, we learned the use of this word pre-dates the Roman Catholic Church (as a denomination), instead this word means "universal, global" church.
 - What is encouraging about being part of a universal, global Church?
 - Tell us about an experience you've had with a church other than CCCC, maybe even in another culture or country.
 - How does that experience shape your view of the Church?
- **Read Revelation 7:9-10**
 - What does this passage say about the universality of the church?
 - What does this passage say about the church across all of time? (including those who have gone before us in the faith)
 - How does our worship now, reflect the worship we will experience in Heaven one day?
- In the sermon we learned the more challenging line of this section on the church is "the communion of saints." It's a call to participate and commit to a local church, not just believe in the global church.
 - Why do you think people have a hard time committing to a local church?
 - What does committing to a local church say about what you believe?
- **Read Ephesians 4:1-6**
 - What commands do we see in this text?
 - What does it practically look like to bear with one another?

- Give an example from this small group if possible.
- What does it practically look like to maintain unity?
 - Give an example from this small group if possible.
- In v4-6 we see 7 one statements. What is the significance of these statements?
 - Specifically- one body (or one church)- why is that so important?
- **Read Ephesians 4:11-13:**
 - What role has God called you to play in the church?
 - Has this group reached unity of faith or mature manhood (womanhood)?
 - What still must happen for us to grow?
- **Application & Reflection:**
 - Of the four commitments we make in membership (I Believe, I Belong, I Support, I Go), which is the hardest for you to commit to?
 - Are you currently a member at CCCC? If so, what is the significance of that for you?
 - If not, what obstacles or questions are standing in your way of making that commitment?