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# CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

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AKI Fall Semester 2020

Pastor Ricky Johnson

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# TODAY'S AGENDA

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- Prayer
  - Quick Review
  - Opening Discussion - The Pope and Same-Sex Civil Unions News Article
  - Creeds and Confessions
  - Special Guest
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# QUICK REVIEW

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# WHAT IS THEOLOGY?

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- Theos - God / Logos - Word or study
  - Literally - Theology mean's "a word about God"
  - Faith seeking understanding
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# THE TASK OF THEOLOGY

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- In studying theology, we are studying the World and The Word
  - Our task in studying theology is to understand the truth about God, human beings, and the world as it is made known, believed, and experienced in Jesus Christ, the Bible, and the church.
  - Theology remains in a state of constant reformation. We must always ask, “What is God doing in our lives and in the world right now.”
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# YOU, THE THEOLOGIAN

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- Who are you? (Gender, socio-economic status, race, etc).
  - How does who you are and your life experiences shape how you see God?
  - Who you are and how you view the world influences your personal theology.
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# CREEDS AND CONFESSIONS

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# CREEDS AND CONFESSIONS



- Question - What is a creed?
  - Latin - credo - means “I believe”
- Why do we have them?
- In the first few hundred years after Jesus died there were many different church communities with many different beliefs (especially on the nature of Christ and his death meant)
- Out of these disputes the church formulated statements of belief, which to this day form an important part of how Christians express their faith

# CREEDS AND CONFESSIONS



- A creed or confession is an officially adopted statement that says what the church believes. It describes what it means to be a faithful Christian.
- In short - It is a summary of shared beliefs

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# THE APOSTLES' CREED

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I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;\*  
the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

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# GUTHRIE ON CREEDS

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- They confess the God of the bible but also the God who is active in our everyday lives. They speak to the ultimate lordship of Jesus.
  - They are forms of worship.
  - They try to preserve the authority of the Bible and weed out false interpretations.
  - They are usually a defense or clarification for belief.
  - They articulate the faith of the whole community.
  - They are educational
  - They are limited - creeds and confessions are shaped by the norms of the society at the time of writing.
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A DISCUSSION WITH OUR SPECIAL GUEST

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# A CHANGE GON' COME?

## Europe

### Pope Francis calls for civil union laws for same-sex couples

Pope Francis endorses same-sex civil unions



- Pope Francis (head of the Roman Catholic Church) has declared support for civil unions for same-sex couples.
- Significance - This is the first time a Pope has come out in favor of homosexuality.
- “Homosexual people have a right to be in a family.” - Pope Francis
- His support is for a “civil union law” and legal coverage

# A CHANGE GON' COME?

## Europe

### Pope Francis calls for civil union laws for same-sex couples

Pope Francis endorses same-sex civil unions



- Not all Catholic clergy support his statement
- “Individuals with same-sex attraction are beloved children of God and must have their personal human rights and civil rights recognized and prompted by law. However, the legalization of their civil unions, which seek to simulate holy matrimony, is not admissible?” - Bishop Thomas Tobin
- So what happens next?

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# FOR NEXT WEEK

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- Read Chapter 3