

“What Do We Believe? –

“God the Father Almighty” Genesis 1:1

Central Thought: *Why we believe what we believe will impact every moment of our living. The first phrase of the Apostles’ Creed affirms: “Our Creator owns us. The Almighty rules and empowers us. Our Father embraces us.” This Gospel is intended to change us.*

The Apostles’ Creed was used:

- To **counter** heresies that emerged;
- To **organize** faith in an “oral” 1st century;
- As a study and teaching text for **doctrine** before the Scriptures were available;
- As a **standard** for Christian faith;
- To prepare Easter **baptismal** candidates during Lent.

“I believe...” 2 Corinthians 13:5

- Beliefs are the principles that **control** everything that I do.

What do I believe?

- 1) God is the Maker of heaven and earth.
Genesis 1:1
 - God is the **Creator** – He made everything.
John 1:3
 - God is the **Owner** – He owns everything.
Psalm 24:1
- 2) God is Almighty. Psalm 84:1
 - Omnipotent – nothing God cannot **do**.
 - Sovereign – Everyone **answers** to Him.
- 3) God is a Father.
 - The Old Testament presents God as:
 - In charge, **authoritative** and to be obeyed – like a father;
 - The OT ascribes **tender** attributes to God. (Psalm 105:42-45; Isaiah 49:15)
 - Jesus expanded the **revelation** that this God is a:
 - **Generous** employer – Matthew 20:1-16
 - **Gracious** host – Matt.22:1-14
 - Shepherd who **values** one – Lk.15:3-4
 - Relentless **pursuer** – Luke 15:8
 - Loving, **sacrificing** father – Luke 15:20
 - **Kind** master – Matthew 25:14-25
 - **Balanced** Father – John 1:14; 14:8-9;
 - Hebrews 1:3

Do I really believe this?

- 1) Do I see God as a Father as Jesus said He is?
 - How **impacted** am I by circumstances or the views of the world?
- 2) Do I **respond** to God as Almighty?
 - How do I respond to times of trial? Is God **limited** like me?

- 3) Do I see God as my Owner?
 - Does God get a **vote** or get control?
- 4) Do I **believe** these things?
 - How does it **influence** me – my behavior, choices, values, priorities, actions, relationships?

For reflection and Life Group facilitation:

- 1) What kind of Father is God to you?
- 2) What has most influenced your view of God as a Father?
- 3) When is it most difficult to believe that God is Almighty?
- 4) When we live without any thought of God’s ownership in our lives, what are we essentially saying to God?
- 5) What are some ways that we can convince pre-Christians that God is a Father Who is worthy of both our love and our obedience?