

The Apostles' Creed - Part 4

"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."

In the last 2000 years, our focus has shifted. Today, if someone speaks about the church, most people think of a building. In the days of the Apostles, mention the word church, and people would think of a body, not a building - The body of Christ!

"I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it" [Matthew 16:18]. So, let us be very clear about who owns the church. It is not the denominations church, nor the people's church or the pastors church - it is Christ's church.

It is vitally important that we understand what the definition of the church was right from the beginning.

"To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy." [1 Corinthians 1:2]

"For you also, like living stones are being built into spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." [1 Peter 2:5]

It is abundantly clear throughout the New Testament that faith is personal, or it is nothing. Faith is the individual response to God's grace. Having said that, when someone comes to personal faith in Christ as their Lord and Savior, they join with many others to be a part of the body of Jesus.

Almost every image and picture of Christians in the New Testament conveys the idea of the interdependence, and connectivity one with another.

Bricks in the building, branches on the vine, sheep in the flock, soldiers in the battle, children, heirs of God, and living stones.

Holy does not mean perfect; it means separated, set apart, or marked out as special.

The nation of Israel was called upon to be holy, to be a different kind of nation, and to be a missionary people whose very lives pointed people to Jehovah God.