

Council of Nicaea (325)

April 30, 2015

The Main Thing

Even though we live almost 2000 years later, the doctrine of Jesus Christ still remains the most pivotal topic both within and outside of the church today.

What are examples of a religion without Christ at the center as God who took on flesh and bore our sin?

(Example: Either a literal religion or a faith that functions as such)

Read the following verses that affirm Christ's deity together...

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it... 9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. JOHN 1:1-5, 9

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. JOHN 14:6

1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. I JOHN 2:1-2

... and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood REVELATION 1:5

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." REVELATION 22:13

Questions & Facts For Discussion

At the heart of every generation and every individual we have to be able to answer the question "What does FAITH in Jesus Christ really mean?" It always goes back to the Nicaean Creed!

Take some time to answer this question around the group...

"What is the implication of this for my individual life?"

Doctrine and Theology do matter!!! You don't have to be a theologian, yet you have been taught and believe things about God. The question is... "Is your theology good or bad?"

That is why it is important to know history, and specifically how the Nicaean Creed came about!
- Ask someone to describe the events leading up to and surrounding the Council of Nicaea (325)

Do you see any similarities to modern day? How is that any different that today?
Do you have opportunities to defend Christ on a daily basis? How?

Do we live in a culture where Christianity is a "state religion"? (Yes or No)



Is it "Safe" to believe in Jesus? Does mention of God and the Holy Spirit seem to be more acceptable than mention of "Jesus Christ"?

The Bottom Line

You are making a claim to is the Authority of God in Jesus Christ...

With every decision we make in our lives - it comes down to the deity & Lordship of Christ!

- Every time we decide between action or in-action...
- A truth or a lie...
- Words that build up or tear down...

We are saying "YES" or "No" to Jesus Christ as Very God!!!

Where We Go From Here

Next week, we will continue our series **5 Events that Shaped the Church**. *Bring Your Bible.*

Talking With God This Week

End your Journey Group this week with a corporate reading of the **Nicene Creed**

(Give everyone a minute to pull it up on their mobile device)

GOOGLE: NICENE CREED (Use 1st link for Christian Reformed Church)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us and our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father *and the Son*; who with the Father *and the Son* together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

