

THE APOSTLES' CREED

WE BELIEVE

SCRIPTURE: John 19:1-22, 38-42

SERIES: The Apostles Creed

TITLE: We Believe Jesus Christ Suffered under Pontius Pilate, died and was buried, descended into hell

BIG IDEA: Jesus Christ suffered, died, was buried, and descended into a literal death to atone for the sins of His people.

SUMMARY

By stating that we believe in Jesus Christ who suffered under Pontius Pilot (a real person in history), died a real death, was buried in a real grave, and descended into death literally; we are claiming that our belief in Jesus is a real and tangible faith in a real person who existed on Earth. This is to say that we do not believe in a legend or a made-up story. We trust and have faith in the real Jesus who gives us real hope because He gave His life on the cross and took the punishment meant for us.

*I believe in God the father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ, god's only son, our lord:
Who was conceived by the holy spirit,
Born of the virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and is seated
At the right hand of the father,
And 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.*

1. He Suffered

*Application Question: What king have we enthroned in our life that
has made the suffering of Christ necessary?*

- How does knowing that Jesus suffered under a real person in history impact our faith?
- Why is it important to know that this is a true story and not legend?
- The chief priests (the highest religious leaders) wanted Jesus dead and plainly said: “We have no king, but Caesar.” What do you hear in their words?
- How have we made similar mistakes like the mistakes of the religious leaders and Pilate?
- How have we tried to self-justify like Pilate when we know the truth?

2. He Died and Was Buried

*Application Question: Are you living in the great love that was displayed
in the death of Christ on our behalf?*

- When Jesus said: “It is finished.” How does that phrase change things for us practically?
- What was peculiar about Pilate’s response and him writing “King of the Jews?”
- How does the death of Christ take the burden off us to atone for our own wrongdoing?
 - o How should this bring us peace daily?

3. He Descended into Death

Application Question: Have you seen that in the Gospel, Christ has met our deepest need?

- Why is it essential to believe in Jesus's literal death and not a figurative death?
- How does this strengthen our confidence in Jesus's resurrection?
- Since Jesus descended into death, we have some real and tangible blessings. What are some of the practical things we now have because of the literal death of Christ?
- How can we remind ourselves daily that Christ took the shame, guilt, and embarrassment on the cross, therefore we don't have to carry those things anymore?
- How does the great love and humility of Christ compel us to change in our interactions with others?