

## ENGAGING THE HEART

### *What Do You Believe?*

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#### Part 2: Freedom's Fountain

John 8:31-32

#### The Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;*

*who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.*

*He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;*

*He descended to hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.*

*He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.*

*From there, He will come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit;*

*the holy, universal Church;*

*the communion of saints;*

*the forgiveness of sins;*

*the resurrection of the body;*

*and the life everlasting. Amen*

"I believe." As we learned last week, it's a phrase we use in so many areas of our lives, from opinions about the outcome of athletic events to our relationship with God; from things of little consequence or importance to matters of great and eternal significance.

*The Apostles' Creed* is a very important resource for those pursuing ultimate realities because it is a summary of what the Bible teaches. It is a summary of who God is and His activity in this world—specifically His work of amazing grace on our behalf. Authentic followers of Christ of all cultures and ages hold these convictions in common.

But, in a world of so much pain and so little time, why study such an old document?

We live in a culture that is addicted to felt needs. Therefore, questions dealing with what a person believes take a back seat to what helps us get through tomorrow. When it comes to church and Christianity, people are losing sight of spiritual teaching being a well of Truth and are, instead, wanting their spirituality to be a well of comfort.

This shift is, to a degree, understandable. As our society casts away more and more of its reference points and restraints, the fangs of sin and its effects are more exposed. The result is a people who are in great pain. So we tend to think the priority is our need for comfort and freedom from our sin, not Truth. What we forget is that the comfort comes from the Truth! That the well of comfort IS the well of Truth! For me to receive the comfort and the freedom, I must drink from the well of Truth.

As we believe the Truth of God's Word (and summaries like *The Apostles' Creed*), we begin to increasingly encounter at least five freedoms:

The freedom of:

1. \_\_\_\_\_.

2. \_\_\_\_\_.

3. \_\_\_\_\_.

4. \_\_\_\_\_.

5. \_\_\_\_\_.