



I BELIEVE - CREDO

This study series is based on the Apostles' Creed, a creed of the Christian Church. A creed is a statement of the beliefs or aims which guide someone's actions.

WEEK SIX: I believe in ...the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

I BELIEVE IN THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS:

The word *communion* here means an act or instance of sharing. It is not specifically referring to Holy Communion in which we, as believers, come together to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross, where we share the bread and wine.

The communion of saints refers to all believers whether past, present or future, sharing a common salvation in our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ. *“Those who have passed from this world into the presence of Christ at the death of their body have the same salvation as believers who are alive today. Those who will come after us will have the same salvation we have.”*

Each believer has the following in common with all other believers.

Romans 5:10 - we have been forgiven through his death on the cross and saved by his risen life.

- Do we have this assurance and what difference does it make to how we live?

Romans 8:2 - we have been set free from the law of sin and death.

- Throughout the book of Romans we learn that we could never fulfil the demands of the Old Testament laws. How then have we been set free?

1 John 3:16 - We have passed from spiritual death to eternal life.

- What is our understanding of this?

John 1:12-13 - By his will we have all been permanently adopted as children of God.

- What does it mean to you to know you are a child of God?

Ephesians 2:10 - We have become God's representatives on earth to do good works.

- Do we understand how important it is to serve others? Our salvation does not depend on our works - see what James 2:14-26 has to say.

Revelation 21:22-27 - We have an eternal home in the New Jerusalem - in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Light. WHAT A WONDERFUL PROMISE!

I BELIEVE IN THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS

This was God's purpose in sending Jesus to die for us. **Hebrews 9:22** makes it clear: "For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness." **Leviticus 19:2:** "Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

The Bible teaches that God is opposed to sin and evil, that he is holy and righteous. In Leviticus 16 we read how the Aaron laid his hands on the head of a goat, confessing the sins of the Israelites, in effect putting on the goat all the sins of the people. It was then sent out into the desert, a scapegoat for their sins.

- Read **Isaiah 53:6** "All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all." and then **John 1:29** "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'" Each day in your prayers give thanks for the forgiveness of your sin and remember the cost.

I BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY

1 Corinthians 15:35-58 – This is Paul at his best in explaining spiritual truths. Having laid out what happens in the natural he then shows how the same principles work in the spiritual. Verses 45-51 explains what will happen:

45 The Scriptures tell us, "The first man, Adam, became a living person." But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit.

46 What comes first is the natural body, then the spiritual body comes later.

47 Adam, the first man, was made from the dust of the earth, while Christ, the second man, came from heaven.

48 Earthly people are like the earthly man, and heavenly people are like the heavenly man.

49 Just as we are now like the earthly man, we will someday be like the heavenly man.

50 What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever.

51 But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! **52** It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed.

53 For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

Also read [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#).

- These scriptures clearly state that our mortal bodies will one day be changed to enable us to inherit the Kingdom of God.
- The early verses of I Corinthians 15, as we saw in Study No.4, show us that the resurrection of Jesus is pivotal to our faith. The Bible tells us in [Romans 8:17](#): “And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory...”. Do these scriptures help you to see the fulness of God’s plan for us as individuals and as the body, the Church?

If we are heirs with Jesus, then there can be no doubts about our bodily resurrection.

He shall return in robes of white,
The blazing Son shall pierce the night.
And I will rise among the saints,
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

I BELIEVE IN THE LIFE EVERLASTING

In this statement, we have come full circle from our belief in God the father almighty to the ultimate plan God has for his church, his body also described as, his bride.

Read [Revelation 21:2-7, 22:1-5 and 12-17](#).

- Do you feel excited to realise what a wonderful eternal future you have? Thank God for what he has done for you and do all you can to live out your Christian faith.
- Write down the important things you have learned from these studies.
- God has done all things well. Can you confidently say **I BELIEVE**.

Prayer: Thank you Father for your love, mercy and forgiveness that allows me to walk this Christian life with you, filled with the love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. May I share these wonderful truths with those who are willing to listen.

