

This We Believe (Heb. 11:1-6, Rom. 10:9-11)

Creeds are everywhere...

...The question is: whose creed do we confess?

Before we talk about what/who Christians believe in, let's ask first:

What does that little word "believe" mean? What does it mean to say we have faith?

3 ways people get the idea of faith wrong

- Faith is foolishness
- Faith is a force
- Faith is a formality

Why is getting faith right so important? (Heb. 3:19)

3 things Hebrew 11:1-6 highlights about faith:

1. Faith has substance: It is a settled trust in something real

Genesis 15:6

What matters is not the *intensity* of our faith, but the *reliability* of the one in whom we believe

2. Faith is assurance: it is a firm conviction about unseen reality

A hearing faith

3. Faith involves both understanding and relationship

Lays hold of specific truth-claims. "We believe *that...*"

What sets Christianity apart

Relationship – we are committed

- Throughout Scripture, this response of faith often takes the shape of verbal confession – eg. Deut. 6:4-5, 1 Cor. 15:3-4 etc.

This pattern continues post-NT: The origin story of the Nicene Creed.

What happens whenever we say these words aloud and affirm them?

- i. We are letting God's Word guard us
- ii. We are letting God remind us we are part of something bigger
- iii. We are letting God reassure us we belong to Jesus.

"The church faces her biggest challenge not when new errors start to win but when old truths no longer wow." – Trevin Wax