

Christianity 101

Week 3

(revised 7/08/15)

Two Questions from last week

1. Write down your biggest takeaway from Class One. This could be something that was new to you, something that fascinates you, or just something you'd like to know more about.

2. As you reflect on Class One, write down if you have any question that remains unanswered.

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.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

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.**

"I believe in the Holy Spirit"

THIRD PERSON OF THE TRINITY

IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. - Genesis 1:2

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners. - Isaiah 61:1

Then the spirit of the Lord rushed on Samson, and he went down to Ashkelon. He killed thirty men of the town, took their spoil, and gave the festal garments to those who had explained the riddle. - Judges 14:19

I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances - Ezekiel 36:27

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

AFTER JESUS' EARTHLY MINISTRY

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit." - Acts 2:1-4a

THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES IN BELIEVERS INDIVIDUALLY & CORPORATELY

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? - 1 Corinthians 6:19

Do you not know that you [plural] are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? - 1 Corinthians 3:16

SPIRIT OF CHRIST

You are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. - Romans 8:9

And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" - Galatians 4:6

FILIOQUE DISAGREEMENT

...We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets...

FILIOQUE CLAUSE PRESENT IN NICENE CREED AFFIRMED IN 325 AND 381 A.D.

Question: what does the Holy Spirit do?

ON A MISSION

MODALISM = ERRANT BELIEF

MISSION: TO GLORIFY/MAGNIFY THE SON

WITNESS & TEACHER

BRINGING US TO FAITH IN CHRIST

GIVING US ASSURANCE THAT WE ARE IN CHRIST

MAKING US WITNESSES OF CHRIST TO OTHERS

"When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf." - John 15:26

ILLUMINATING CHRIST THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES

MINISTERS TO US

GIFTS US WITH JOY

STRENGTHENS US TO PERSEVERE

God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. - 1 Corinthians 10:13

SANCTIFIES US TO BECOME MORE LIKE CHRIST

And all of us...are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. - 2 Corinthians 3:18

GIVES US SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Spiritual Gifts mentioned in Scripture (italics denotes "miraculous" gifts)			
Romans 12	1 Corinthians 12	Ephesians 4	Miscellaneous
Encouraging Giving Leadership Mercy Prophecy Service Teaching	Administration Apostle Faith Healing Helps <i>Word of Knowledge</i> <i>Miracles</i> <i>Prophecy</i> Teaching <i>Tongues</i> <i>Interpretation of Tongues</i> <i>Word of Wisdom</i>	Apostle Evangelism Pastoring <i>Prophecy</i> Teaching	Celibacy Hospitality Martyrdom Missionary Voluntary Poverty <i>Discerning of Spirits</i> Craftsmanship/Artist Music Writing

SIGNS OF THE SPIRIT

The coming of the lawless one is apparent in the working of Satan, who uses all power, signs, lying wonders, and every kind of wicked deception for those who are perishing - 2 Thessalonians 3:9-10

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. - Galatians 5:22-23

I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

REALITY OF PERSONAL FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST

OPEN TO THE SPIRIT

...be filled with the Spirit... - Ephesians 5:18

PRAISE THE SPIRIT

“the holy catholic Church”

NICENE CREED: “One, holy, catholic and apostolic Church”

ONE

HOLY

CATHOLIC

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH: “EVERYONE ELSE BROKE OFF”

PROTESTANTS: REFORMED DOCTRINE, BUT THREW SOME OF THE BABY OUT

ANGLICAN: REFORMED WHILE MAINTAINING APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION & EPISCOPAL STRUCTURE

APOSTOLIC

When was the Church born?

PENTECOST

EASTER REQUIRES PENTECOST

THE LOCAL CHURCH

THE CHURCH’S RELATION TO CHRIST

DISCIPLES / LORD

BRIDE / GROOM

BODY / HEAD

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. –
1 Corinthians 12:27

And he (Christ) is the head of the body, the church. –
Colossians 1:18

OUTSIDE THE CHURCH THERE IS NO SALVATION?

NECESSITY OF THINKING CLEARLY ABOUT “SALVATION”

“the communion of saints”

SAINTS = HOLY ONES

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus. –Ephesians 1:1

WE ARE ALL SAINTS

ALL SAINTS, LIVING AND DEPARTED, ARE UNITED IN CHRIST

LIVING SAINTS: ECUMENISM

DEPARTED SAINTS

UNITED WITH THEM IN WORSHIP

LEARN & BE ENCOURAGED FROM THEIR LIVES

REJOICE OVER DEPARTED SAINTS: THAT WE WILL SEE THEM AGAIN!

WORSHIP OF DEPARTED SAINTS IS IDOLATRY (WRONG)

Question: Is it wrong to involve dead saints in our prayers at all?

PROTESTANT DISCOMFORT WITH PRAYING TO/FOR SAINTS LIKELY BOUND UP WITH HISTORICAL TIES TO PURGATORY

PURGATORY: A FALSE TEACHING OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us. - Ephesians 2:18

SCRIPTURAL BASIS FOR PURGATORY = MISINTERPRETATION OF APOCRYPHAL PASSAGE

On the next day, as had now become necessary, Judas and his men went to take up the bodies of the fallen and to bring them back to lie with their kindred in the sepulchres of their ancestors. Then under the tunic of each one of the dead they found sacred

tokens of the idols of Jamnia, which the law forbids the Jews to wear. And it became clear to all that this was the reason these men had fallen. So they all blessed the ways of the Lord, the righteous judge, who reveals the things that are hidden; and they turned to supplication, praying that the sin that had been committed might be wholly blotted out. The noble Judas exhorted the people to keep themselves free from sin, for they had seen with their own eyes what had happened as the result of the sin of those who had fallen. He also took up a collection, man by man, to the amount of two thousand drachmas of silver, and sent it to Jerusalem to provide for a sin-offering. In doing this he acted very well and honorably, taking account of the resurrection. For if he were not expecting that those who had fallen would rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. But if he was looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Therefore he made atonement for the dead, so that they might be delivered from their sin. - 2 Maccabeus 12:39-45

PURGATORY BOTH UNSUPPORTED AND CONTRADICTED BY HOLY SCRIPTURE

And (the criminal) said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." - Luke 23:42-43

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire. - 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

N.T. WRIGHT ON PRAYING FOR & WITH THE DEAD

"Once we rule out purgatory, I see no reason why we should not pray for and with the dead and every reason why we should - not that they will get out of purgatory but that they will be refreshed and filled with God's joy and peace. Love passes into prayer; we still love them; why not hold them, in that love, before God?"

But—and this is very important for those who, like me, believe that it's vital to ground one's beliefs in scripture itself—I see no evidence in the early Christian writings to suggest that the Christian dead are in fact engaged in work of that sort, still less any suggestion that presently alive Christians should, so to speak, encourage them to do it by invoking them specifically.

*In particular, we should be very suspicious of the medieval idea that the saints function as friends at court so that while we might be shy of approaching the King ourselves, we know someone who is, as it were, one of us, to whom we can talk freely and who will maybe put in a good word for us. The practice seems to call into question, and even actually to deny by implication, the immediacy of access to God through Jesus Christ and in the Spirit, promised again and again in the New Testament. [...] Explicit invocation of saints may be, in fact—I do not say it always is, but it may be—a step toward that semipaganism of which the Reformers were rightly afraid. –N.T. Wright, *Surprised By Hope**

“the Forgiveness of Sins”

OLD COVENANT INSUFFICIENT

Question: What is sin?

SIN = OUR REBELLION AGAINST GOD AS OUR RIGHTFUL RULER

EVERYONE IS A SINNER

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. – Romans 3:23

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? – Jeremiah 17:9

Confession from *Book of Common Prayer*:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

NEW COVENANT FOUNDED ON FORGIVENESS OF SINS

"I will make a new covenant...I will be their God, and they shall be my people... For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." – Jeremiah 31:31,33-34

Question: What is forgiveness?

IN CHRIST: GOD NO LONGER TREATING US ACCORDING TO OUR SIN

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. - Romans 8:1

IN JESUS, THERE IS JUSTIFICATION (justification = our new status before God)

For our sake God made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. - 2 Corinthians 5:21

BY FAITH ALONE

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. - Romans 5:1

LEGALISM: THE ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY OURSELVES

THE MISTAKE OF THE PHARISEES

Jesus said, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness." - Matthew 23:25-27

...they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. - Romans 10:2-3

“the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting”

DEATH AS THE FINAL ENEMY

The last enemy to be destroyed is death. - 1 Corinthians 15:26

DEATH IS CONQUERED

Jesus said to Martha, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. - John 11:25-26

CHRISTIAN HOPE NOT IN IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL

DISEMBODIMENT IN HEAVEN *NOT* OUR FINAL DESTINY

ULTIMATE DESTINY: RESURRECTED BODIES + NEW HEAVEN & NEW EARTH

NEW BODIES = LIKE CHRIST'S

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. - Philippians 3:20-21

Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out... -John 5:28-29

FINAL ETERNAL DESTINATION = A "NEW HEAVENS AND NEW EARTH"

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. - Genesis 1:1

For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. - Isaiah 65:17

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband... And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb... Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. - Revelation 21:1-2, 22 & 22:1-2

ON HELL

But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death. - Revelation 21:8

Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did

not do it to me.” And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’ - Matthew 25:44-46

Likewise, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which, in the same manner as they, indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural lust, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. - Jude 1:7

Question: What will we do in the life everlasting?

EVERLASTING LIFE = ONE OF NEW FULFILLMENT

WORSHIP, WORK, THINK, COMMUNICATE, ETC.

ENDLESS JOY

KNOWING GOD

KNOWING PEOPLE

ENJOYING CREATION

DOING GOOD

Question: “Will there be sweets and hamsters in heaven?”

FULFILLMENT OF THE TRUE DESIRE OF OUR HEARTS...

...GOD

Two Questions from Class Three

1. Write down your biggest takeaway from Class One. This could be something that was new to you, something that fascinates you, or just something you'd like to know more about.

2. As you reflect on Class One, write down if you have any question that remains unanswered.

Principle #3:	God's intention is to transform me more and more into the likeness of Christ	<p>God intends for us to become more than we are naturally: But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the natural, and then the spiritual... Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. -1 Corinthians 15:46, 49</p> <p>God intends to transform us by His Spirit: And we all... are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. -2 Corinthians 3:18</p>	<p>Though we are forgiven: the goal is a life in God's will. So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation — if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. -1 Peter 2:1-5</p>
Life without it:	<p>Indistinguishable from the people of world and equally dissatisfied.</p> <p>A life of very little eternal significance, making little to no impact for the kingdom of God.</p> <p>Little spiritual growth or victory over sin</p> <p>A misunderstanding the purpose of spiritual disciplines</p>	<p>The contrast between Christians who are not on the transformation track versus those who are: For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. - Philippians 3:18-21</p> <p>On the sin that remains after conversion: For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate... For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. -Romans 7:15, 18</p>	<p>Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of God. -Matthew 5:3</p> <p>...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. -Philippians 2:12-13</p>
Practice #3:	Open ourselves up to and cooperate with God's process of transformation	<p>Our goal is Christlikeness: For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. -2 Peter 1:5-8</p> <p>...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. -2 Peter 3:18</p> <p>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. - Matthew 5:6</p> <p>I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. - Galatians 2:20</p>	<p>On the blessing of walking on God's law: Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; -Psalm 1:1-6</p>
Life with it:	Christians who increasingly experience and produce the fruit of the Spirit, exhibit lives increasingly distinctive from the world, and make a tremendous impact for God's kingdom		