



# CREED

## SERMON NOTES

Week 4 October 3, 2021

### “The Church and the Communion of Saints”

*Ephesians 4:7, 11-12, 5:25; Acts 9:31; Matthew 16:17-18; Psalm 34:4; John 20:21-22; Genesis 6:6; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Hebrews 12:1-2*

#### I. Holy and Catholic?

- A. The Christian confession of faith that states “I believe in the holy catholic \_\_\_\_\_, and the communion of saints.”
- B. The church is \_\_\_\_\_ when she loves Christ and seeks to be faithful to him.
- C. The word \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the church everywhere.

#### II. The Church

- A. There’s The Greek word translated church is *ecclesia* which actually means “an assembly or \_\_\_\_\_.”
- B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the church is threefold.
  - a. Worship God.
  - b. To be in community with one another.
  - c. To do God’s work in the world.

#### III. The Communion of Saints

- A. Saints are not those who have been canonized by the church after death. It was Paul’s term for all \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. The “communion of \_\_\_\_\_” refers to the whole community of faithful followers of Christ, living and dead, past, present and future.

#### *Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message*

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *October 4-9, 2021*

## INTRODUCTION

The Christian confession of faith that states “I believe in the holy catholic church, and the communion of saints.” Over 2,000 years ago, Jesus predicted that His church would be launched and that nothing would stop it. Shortly after that bold statement, the Church was launched and despite his death and the death of the apostle’s, the Church is still here today. But what exactly is the church, the purpose of the church and why does it matter?

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### Monday: Matthew 16:13-18

Jesus makes a bold prediction about the formation of the church and that nothing will be able to stand in its way. This is one of the most significant prophecies in the entire Bible, because we are in some way a fulfillment of it. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of church?

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### Tuesday: Acts 1:6-8

Just before Jesus leaves the planet, he gathers with about 100 to 120 of his followers. He gathers them on a hillside and gives them final instructions (in Matthew we call it the great commission). Based on these instructions, what do you think is the mission of the church?

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### Wednesday: John 20:21-22

We are to continue the ministry that Jesus began and to represent Jesus in the world. Jesus devoted much of his time ministering to the poor, the marginalized, those forgotten by society. How are you continuing Jesus’ ministry today?

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### Thursday: 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Galatians 6:2, Ephesians 4:32

The church is meant to be a unique community, unlike other clubs and organizations to which one might belong. The Greek word for this kind of caring community is “koinonia” meaning communion or sharing. It involves getting to know others, building relationships with them, and actively caring for them. Are you actively participating in community with other believers or are you trying to be a lone ranger Christian?

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### Friday: Hebrews 12:1-2

The “communion of saints” refers to the whole community of faithful followers of Christ, living and dead, past, present and future. I love this image of a race, with saints in heaven cheering us on as we run. Do you believe we are able to commune with those who have died and gone on before us? Why or why not? Who is part of your great cloud of witnesses?

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## MOVING FORWARD

The Greek word translated **church** is ‘ecclesia’ which actually means an assembly or gathering. In the case of the church it is a gathering of Jesus followers. The purpose of the church is threefold – to worship God, create community and to do God’s work in the world. The closest anyone will ever get to being in the presence of Jesus is when they are in a local church that is functioning like the body of Jesus. This week reflect on how you can use your gifts in the body of Christ.

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) church, B) holy, C) catholic. IIA) gathering, B) purpose. IIIA) Christians, B) saints.*