

THE QUESTIONS OF THE ABSOLUTE BASICS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH*

DOCTRINE OF GOD

1 – Who is God? *God is HOLY TRINITY; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Three persons in one God.*

2 – What is God like? *God is perfect in POWER, KNOWLEDGE, and in His HOLY LOVE.*

DOCTRINE OF CREATION

3 – What did God make? *God spoke EVERYTHING into being, by His own FREE CHOICE, and it was VERY GOOD.*

4 – Why is there evil? *God gave us FREE WILL to obey and we did not.*

DOCTRINE OF THE INCARNATION

5 – Who is Jesus Christ? *The eternally begotten Son of God and the Son of Mary. Fully DIVINE. Fully HUMAN.*

6 – Why did the Son of God become human? *Because God LOVES us and wants to make us truly CHILDREN of God.*

DOCTRINE OF SALVATION – PART I

7 – What is salvation? *Through Jesus' sacrificial death and victorious resurrection, we are RECONCILED with God and RESCUED from destruction.*

8 – What is required for salvation? *We must REPENT and BELIEVE in Jesus Christ.*

DOCTRINE OF SALVATION – PART II

9 – What are the benefits of salvation? *We are PARDONED by God, made part of God's FAMILY again, and given RESURRECTION life and power.*

10 – What happens when we live out our salvation in Christ? *God CONTINUES to work in us to make us HOLY and BLAMELESS.*

DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

11 – Who is the Holy Spirit? *The ETERNAL Spirit of God, who PROCEEDS from the Father and the Son.*

12 – What does the Holy Spirit do? *The Holy Spirit LEADS us to repentance, GIVES us new life, and EMPOWERS us to follow Jesus.*

DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

13 – What is the church?

14 – What are the church's sacraments?

DOCTRINE OF GOD

15 – What is the world's great hope?

16 – What is our future?

*Questions as outlined by Phil Tallon in The Absolute Basics of the Christian Faith, Seedbed Publishing – Franklin, TN

The Absolute Basics of the Christian Faith WHAT IS THE CHURCH? 01.26.20

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, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there, He shall come 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

WHY DO WE NEED TO KNOW THE "BASICS?"

1. What we believe matters
2. Our beliefs shape our behavior
3. Our beliefs shape what we become
4. So the BIBLE will stand as our authority

THE BASICS

Q13: What is the church?

"The church is the _____ of all true believers, who are _____ body in the world, _____ the work of the apostles."*

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism." Ephesians 4:4-5, NLT

Ekklesia = "gathering," from the root words "called" and "out of"

"The Church is the gathering together of people called by God out of the world." Phil Tallon

The Church

1. The Church is God's _____

“Being a Christian means being a member of Jesus’ family. It means living in God’s house and learning God’s ways.” Phil Tallon

“Christ and the church are one.” Ephesians 5:32, NLT

“Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body.” Colossians 1:18, NLT

[Jesus] “Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.” Matthew 16:18, NLT

“I am writing to God’s church in Corinth, to you who have been called by God to be his own holy people.” 1 Corinthians 1:2, NLT

2. The Church is God's _____

“Through the church, Christ is present in the world.” Phil Tallon

“The church is his [Jesus’s] body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.” Ephesians 1:23, NLT

“The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.” 1 Corinthians 12:12, NLT

3. The Church is God's _____

“It is through the church that Christ continues the work of the Father in the world.” Phil Tallon

“All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:27, NLT

[Jesus] “Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20, NLT

Through the Church, Christ is _____ in the world

- Teaching
- Healing
- Sacrificing

“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.” Ephesians 4:11-15, NLT

“The Bible shows that to be part of God’s family means that we have to take the whole package. We have to be under the lordship of Christ, with the whole community of true believers, continuing Jesus’ work in the world.” Phil Tallon

The Church At Its Best

“All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42-47, NLT