

I BELIEVE IN THE CHURCH, GOD'S COMMUNITY

John 10:14-16

Colossians 1:15-18

Ephesians 4:4-6

John 17:21

1 Peter 2:9

Acts 2:42-27

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What is the difference between a church and the Church? How has your experience with a particular church shaped what you believe about the Church?
- Do you think it is important to belong to a church? Why or why not?

Is it possible to be a Christian and be indifferent about the Church? Anyone who professes to believe in the Apostles' Creed *should* say no. Even though the Church is full of imperfect people and splintered denominations, the Apostles' Creed declares we believe in "one, holy catholic Church" and "the communion of saints." Study the scriptures that provide the foundation for these beliefs and discover what the Church should be at its best, why it's still possible to consider it "one, holy, and universal" even when it's not, who the communion of saints are, and why it all matters for your personal faith.

Listen: [*I Believe in the Church, God's Community*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- How does the knowledge that you are not only called into a relationship with Jesus, but also into a relationship with his *community* impact your faith life and practice? How does this truth affect your perspective on church?
- Reflect on the three beliefs expressed about the Church in the Apostles' Creed: one, holy, and catholic or universal. Which characteristic is the easiest for you to believe and recognize? Why? Which one is the most difficult to believe or recognize? Why?
- When have you witnessed the holiness of the Church? When has a church failed to be holy or distinct from the surrounding culture?
- How is the "communion of saints" different than the saints celebrated or revered in the Roman Catholic Church? How has or might reflecting on the communion of saints strengthen your faith?

- Where have you witnessed glimpses of the communion of saints, the *koinonia*, the church as it should be, the invisible church?
- How can you increase your awareness of the Church-at-large, the communion of saints, the Church around the world, the Church past and present?
- In what ways does your vision or understanding of the church need to grow?

Related Passages

- **Philippians 2:14-16**
- **1 Corinthians 12:12-31**

Conclusion

Spend some time reflecting on your experience of the Church and your answers to the above questions. Close your time of reflection in prayer for Christ's Church. Pray for your relationship with the Church, for your local church community, the Church around the world, and for the communion of saints (the church past, present, and future).

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/i-believe-in-the-church-gods-community>

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