

Why a Creed?

Deuteronomy 6.1-9

Words over 3000 Years Old > Moses to Children of Israel entering Canaan
Book of Deut > GREATEST Influence on JEWISH & Christian Thought

Deut QUOTED over 80 X's in NT > In 17 of the 27 Books of the NT
Lord JESUS memorized passages of Deut. / Used Privately & Publicly

ANCIENT WORDS – Marching Orders to MIGRANT TRIBE –
Speak with LIFE and POWER to 21st Cent > TIMELESS Truths of God
Poverty – Homelessness – Debt – Business – Health – Government – Sex
Most of ALL Deuteronomy tells us about GOD

Moses – who will NOT ENTER the Land with THESE Young Folks –
Points them TO GOD – Their PROVIDER, PROTECTOR and LIFE

This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set
before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you
and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God,
listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. *For the LORD is your life*, and he
will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers,
Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Deuteronomy 30.19-20

TODAY > Introduce NEW Sermon SERIES ‘Apostle’s Creed’
EARLIEST Statement of CHRISTIAN TRUTH – WIDELY HELD
Nearly ALL ORTHODOX, CATHOLIC, PROTESTANT – over 1000 Yrs.

NOT Written by APOSTLE’S > Represents TEACHING of APOSTLES
Earliest FORM – 140 AD – Almost by 6th C - PRESENT FORM – 8th C

CREED!?! – Boring!! DEAD! RITUAL!! – WHY A CREED??
Some Churches say, “NO CREED but CHRIST, No LAW but LOVE”

Nicky Gumbel – Soccer/Football Coach for Kids – EASY TASK?
Loved Game – Played Well > Big GRASS Area > EAGER KIDS
UNCONTROLLED CHAOS – Fighting – Crying – Confusion

Another Parent Arrived with Field Markers – Set out BOUNDARIES
Grassy AREA transformed into PROPER FOOTBALL PITCH!

INSTANT ORDER – JOY & FUN at PLAY – Now UNITY, DIRECTION
NO FIGHTING – CLEAR AGREEMENT – Ball is IN or OUT – All SEE

In SIMILAR WAY – APOSTLE’S CREED – served Church over 1000 yrs

1. Clear, simple, statement of Truths of the Gospel
2. Correct False Teachings
3. Foundation for true Christian Fellowship
4. Encourage Balance and Doctrinal clarity in Church Teaching

LOOK BACK at Deuteronomy 6 – FIRST CREED of the PEOPLE of GOD

1. Delivered 2. Duty 3. Delight 4. Descendents 5. Declaration

1. Delivered

MOSES did not FIND GOD > REASON OUT God > or INVENT God
He was CONFRONTED by GOD > Where & When he LEAST EXPECTED

Moses was ...the far side of the desert...There the angel of the LORD
appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though
the bush was on fire it did not burn up...When the LORD saw that he had
gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

Exodus 3.1-4

God REVEALED Self in STRANGE WAYS –

Moses HAND turned LEPROUS / His STAFF turned into a SNAKE

Nile River turns to Blood – Land infested with Frogs, Mosquitoes, Flies

Cattle Die – People covered with Boils – Hail Storm in a Heat Zone

Locusts Eat What’s Left – Darkness in Daytime – Firstborn of EGYPT Die

"Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you-- majestic in
holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?" Exodus 15.11

Red Sea Opens for People of God ...and Closes on Enemies of God

Bread falls from Sky – Mount Sinai Shakes – Tablets of Stone Inscribed

MOSES could NOT have MADE ALL THAT Up Even if he WANTED TO

MESSENGER of Word: CAREFUL REPORTER, What GOD Done & Said

Apostles: "For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Acts 4.20

NOT Find God by OUR SEARCH: REASON, EMOTIONS, EXPERIENCE

We FIND God When HE FINDS US, SELF-REVEALING God: Confronts!

v. 4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. FIRST CREED!

HEART of Book > YAHWEH is NOT Pantheon of gods – but ONE

NOT 300 Million gods of HINDUISM – BUT ONE TRUE GOD

SOLE Object of Israel's FAITH and OBEDIENCE > Exclusive LOYALTY

HE is OUR GOD > He is ONE > He is ALONE

Called the SHEMA of Israel – from HEB. Word 'HEAR' – Now Hear This!

TODAY 'Shema' still forms PART of JEW'S DAILY PRAYERS

...faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through
the word of Christ

Romans 10.17

Fundamental QUESTION – WHO is GOD? : Name found 200 X's in Deut

GOD not any the Idols of Egypt – Nor Fertility gods you'll meet in Canaan

Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God
of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?'

Then what shall I tell them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM...The
LORD, the God of your fathers--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and

the God of Jacob

Exodus 3.13-15

God revealed himself in overwhelming majesty at Sinai not only to demonstrate his holiness but to encourage theirs. Raymond Brown

Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you *to keep you from sinning*" Exodus 20.20

God is not looking for CEREMONY or SACRIFICE but OBEDIENCE

SIGN of FAITH – Not just PROFESS a CREED > PRACTICE the CREED

A person does not subscribe to the Creed because he is a member of the church that holds to it: instead, he already believes the truth stated in the Creed before joining the church that professes it. C.D. Cole

Book of DEUT. Command 'To DO' occurs 50 X's
REASON Responsible > GOD'S REDEEMED PEOPLE > Freed by Him

We acknowledge only one God, to whom we must cleave, whom only we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom only we must put our trust. Scots Confession of 1560

People to Moses: "The LORD our God has shown us his glory and his majesty, and we have heard his voice from the fire. Today we have seen that a man can live even if God speaks with him. But now, why should we die? This great fire will consume us, and we will die if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any longer. For what mortal man has ever heard the voice of the living God speaking out of fire, as we have, and survived? Go near and listen to all that the LORD our God says. Then *tell us whatever the LORD our God tells you. We will listen and obey.*" Deuteronomy 5.23-27

PARENT – 'I WANT you HOME by 10 o'clock'

CHILD – But Johnny does not have to be HOME by 10!

PARENT – I am NOT Johnny's Parent – YOU Belong to ME – I said 10!

the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness

Titus 1.1

Biblical TRUTH, Expressed in CREEDS: Should Make us more HOLY

The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 1 Timothy 1.5

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age Titus 2.11-12

RIGHT BELIEF should result to RIGHTEOUS BEHAVIOR
FAITHFUL to CREED should be seen in FAITHFULNESS in CONDUCT

...the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus
2 Timothy 1.13

Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. 1 Timothy 4.16

3. Delight

vs. 5,6 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.

COMMAND to LOVE GOD found 10 X's in Deut. – No Where Else in OT

OBEDIENCE Not from LEGALISM, or RITUAL, or TRADITION > LOVE
TOTAL DEVOTION, LOVE God w/ WHOLE Self: Heart, Soul, Strength

God's FIRST CLAIM on US is OUR LOVE – In RESPONSE to HIS Love

vs. 3,4 Hear, O Israel...you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey...Hear, O Israel

ISRAEL – MORE than NAME of COUNTRY > COVENANT-NAME
'Prince with God' > PEOPLE of BLESSING & DESTINY > Covenant Love

The LORD said, "Oh, that their *hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always*, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!"
Deuteronomy 5.29

LOVE cannot be COMMANDED > Flows out of GRATITUDE, Devotion

This is love for God: to obey his commands. 1 John 5.3

Committed Christian Woman – Early 30's – FOUND LOVE, ENGAGED Wonderful MAN– Get ALONG SO WELL – One small detail: BUDDHIST!

NOT Dared to TALK of FAITH > Might SPOIL this WONDERFUL LOVE NOT Been in Church Since September > Know is WRONG, FEEL Right!

I've been wavering in my faith and frankly, it was easier to ignore and live in denial than coming to God and being honest with Him and myself...I fell in love with him quickly and everything felt so right. Him being a non-believer was an issue but I chose to ignore it at the time. And so many other times... Maybe because I was afraid of his response and maybe because of my tepid faith lately I was willing to just let it be. Bottomline was that I was more afraid of losing him than losing God. And, honestly, I was comfortable.

If you WANT to RUN AWAY from GOD > Door is OPEN!
God LOVES You ENOUGH to LET YOU RUN AWAY – Not SLAVE

LOVE like NO OTHER LOVE > LOVE God and FEAR God
FEAR is from sense of AWE and WORSHIP > Leads to LOVE

Since, then, we know what it is to *fear the Lord*, we try to persuade men...
For *Christ's love compels us*, because we are convinced that one died for all...
2 Corinthians 5.11,14

LOVE and TRUTH > ONLY UNDIVIDED Love is TRUE
ON THE FINAL DAY – Judged by our LOVE FOR TRUTH
They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie

and so that all *will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.* 2 Thessalonians 2.9-12

FINAL DAY is REAL and TERRIFYING > God HELP US ALL!
We say ‘I love God – but I love my boyfriend more...or anything MORE!’

Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."
John 14.21

LOVE for the LORD is REAL when you LIVE for the LORD

4. Descendents

Words of Moses to PEPSI Generation – Orphan Children of SIN
Mom’s and Dad’s DISOBEYED and DIED in WILDERNESS Wanderings

v. 3 the God of your fathers > TRUE to the Ancestors, Faithful to THEM too

v. 7 These commandments...Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Seek MAINTAIN LOVE for GOD from Age to Age > Next Generation

MOSES – Duty to TEACH Word of God to NATION
PARENTS – Duty to TEACH Word of God to CHILDREN (not Moses)

Visited 30 Churches > COMMON PROBLEM: Watching KIDS!
Common EXPECTATION > Church should do it / Parents should do it!
BOTH – Responsibility of Parents – Wider Family of Entire Fellowship

“Family that Prays together stays Together”

Empty-Nester > Dayna & I fought for FAMILY DEVOTION Table Time
READ Bible / PRAY / SHARE – Important Time to Review and Listen

Three Sons – One Very Clear in Walk w/ God – Others have Seed Planted!
 Mom & Dad – STRIVE for These Times – Change Schedules – Say ‘NO!’

FOCUS - God-centered, not child centered, NOT "I would do anything for my children" where is God in that statement?

GOD CENTERED thus, we PRAY FOR OUR CHILDREN....

Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing."
 Genesis 17.18

Early in the morning Job would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed god in their hearts."
 Job 1.5

CHRISTIAN WOMAN w/ BUDDHIST FIANCÉ – Realized Importance...
 I am going to start building my muscle of faith (yet, again) and it started last night by talking to my fiancée about my faith. I actually shared details of my faith, why it's so important to me, the Gospel (I know, I can't believe I never actually shared with him before) and my struggles. I told him that I have always wanted a family that worshipped together and children that shared my faith. Faith in Jesus Christ.

Be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live.
 Teach them to your children and to their children after them. Deuteronomy 4.9

Fellow citizens, why do you turn and scrape every stone to gather wealth and take so little care of your children to whom one day you must relinquish it all?
 Socrates

Difference btwn ISOLATION and INOCULATION

ISOLATION – HIDE them from EVIL WORLD – Fear It, ESCAPE
 Many Times – ENHANCES APPETITE for FORBIDDEN FRUIT
 LAW Aroused the SINFUL NATURE – You Say ‘No’ Must be GOOD!

INOCULATION – World in SMALL, Controlled, DOSES
 BIBLICAL WORLD-VIEW – As CREATED, FALLEN, REDEEMED

Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.
 Deut 11:19

WATCH TV – NAVIGATE Traffic – EAT DINNER – Kick FOOTBALL
 NOT just a LESSON > But a CONTINUAL LIFE of TRUTH and LOVE

Use of CREEDS and CATECHISMS - GREAT Teaching TOOLS

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.
 3 John 4

NO GREATER PAIN than When CHILDREN Reject the LOVE OF GOD

5. Declaration

CHILDREN of EGYPTIAN SLAVES into godless, immoral CANAAN
 Live among people GOD CALLS a STENCH in HIS NOSTRILS
 LIVE HOLINESS and HOPE in PRESENCE of God - Holy, Holy, Holy

NO DOUBT – Israel was Weird, Misunderstood, Unpopular

Christians need to be aware just how little what they say and believe agrees with the world as understood by science and technology, commerce, law, politics, or the arts – or with the world as understood by many of their neighbors.
 Luke Timothy Johnson

vs. 8,9 These commandments...Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Asked FOREIGN WORKER where going to CHURCH?

REACH OUT to NATIONALS on Sundays > Parks, Mtns. Restraunts
What are you REACHING OUT With? COMPROMISING Own FAITH!

GIVE UP what you HAVE to Win SOMEONE to what YOU are DENYING
Every Person HERE Knows – SUNDAY is VASCRESENYA – He is Risen!

IF He Really DID Rise – Can't You GET OUT OF BED and Worship HIM
People that SEND MONEY to KEEP US Here > In CHURCH on Sundays!

PEOPLE of God – WORSHIP Him in Churches across this Country
HIS Workers use LORD'S DAY to SLEEP IN and GO TO THE MALL!

NOTICE ORDER of Deut 6: Worship God, Walk w/ God, Witness for Him

v. 8 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Doorposts and Gates > CLEAR SIGN to the NEIGHBORS
Family is COMMITTED to GOD'S UNCHANGING WORD

FIRST CREED of EARLY CHURCH – Bold, Public DECLARATION

If you confess with your mouth, "*Jesus is Lord,*" and believe in your heart
that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10.9

Put CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS on your CAR > then DRIVE Like PAGANS!
New Christian put sticker 'Jesus Christ is LORD' on Car Window
Unbelieving Brother-in-Law – 'What does that Mean?'
30 Years Later – Car is in JUNKYARD – Has he seen JESUS as My Lord?

Visited Kuala Lumpur – Home of Malaysian man from ICF
Subdivision – BUDDHIST SPIRIT HOUSES in Most Yards
ISLAMIC Symbols on Other Houses
Pulled into Friends Home – Large CROSS on DOOR
BEST of ALL – Neighbors know Him by KINDNESS & LOVE

v. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

Hand and Forehead > PERSONAL CONVICTION – Work and Wisdom
INTENT and ACTIONS – PURPOSE of Life – Devoted to GOD

NO PROBLEM with SYMBOLS – Symbol ALONE NOT ENOUGH

Big CROSSES hanging from Necks of GANGSTER RAPPER'S and
PORN STARS do NOT Advance the MESSAGE of JESUS

INTENDED as METAPHOR > Israel interpreted HYPER-LITERALLY
MEZUZAHS – Small Box containing TINY Parchment of Scripture

Orthodox JEWISH Men > 4 Passages of Law > Leather CASES
BIND to LEFT Arms and FOREHEADS During Prayers

Very DIFFERENT Society > SAME NEED – Neighbors Need GOD
We can SHOW and SHARE – His WORD – Spoken and Lived OUT
HOME place of HOSPITALITY – FRIENDSHIP – SHARING - Serving

Before 1933 – GERMAN Protestant Church PASTOR recited Apost.Creed
After 1933 ENTIRE CONGREGATION Recited the Apos.Creed Together

WHY? Challenge NAZI Attacks – Truth of Christ PERSONAL & PUBLIC

TODAY in KZ – Some in CHURCH Afraid – Gov't, Press, Future
GOOD to Time to STUDY Creed – STAND on Creed – with FAITH

The Christian creed enunciates a powerful and provocative understanding of the world, one that ought to scandalize a world that runs on the accepted truths of Modernity. There is something in the creed to offend virtually every contemporary sensibility. At the same time, it communicates a compelling vision of the world's destiny and humanity's role that challenges the accustomed idolatries and the weary platitudes of current worldly wisdom.

Luke Timothy Johnson

GOD Creed Declares is NOT LIAR – PROMISES are TRUSTWORTHY
He will BUILD HIS Church in KZ – Central Asia – Ends of the Earth! * * *

Deuteronomy 6:1 These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, 2 so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. 3 Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you.

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.