

NEW HOPE REFORMED CHURCH

Pastor Russ Westbrook

Meeting Place: 4192 N. Wilderness Rd. Mount Vernon, KY 40456



WHAT OUR CHILDREN NEED TO KNOW AND BELIEVE

What do the children of our congregation need to know and believe when they make a public profession of their faith? How will parents know when their child is ready to make such a profession? What will be asked by our church session and what vows will the child be asked to make?

[Listen to this sermon](#) using the following notes outline. Questions are welcome to any session member.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate;
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell;
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.

1. The legend of the Apostles' Creed

2. The archaeological evidence of the development of the Apostles' Creed

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3. The reason for the Apostles' Creed
 - a. what does "Mass" mean?

 - b. the Bible is a big, big book

4. The Apostles' Creed is one of the confessional statements held by New Hope Reformed Church
 - a. the use of confessional statements

 - b. who are NHRC has promised to fully uphold these statements.

5. What do WE use in the way that the early church used the Apostle's Creed? Our membership vows:
 - a. Do you profess your firm belief in the Christian doctrine as taught perfectly by the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and embraced by the faithful people of God in the world, and resolve by divine help to conform yourself to the proper obedience of this gospel as long as you live?

 - b. Do you surrender yourself to the One True God, who is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and publicly proclaim Him this day to be your God, your Father, your Savior, your sanctifier and leader, and receive Him as your portion forever?

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- c. Do you surrender yourself to the blessed Jesus, who is the one true divine and human mediator for the people of God, and adhere to Him as the head of His people in the Covenant of Grace, relying upon Him alone as your Prophet, Priest and King, to bring you to eternal blessedness?
- d. Do you desire, with dependence on His promised and powerful grace, to walk together with us as a church of our Lord Jesus Christ in the faith and order of the gospel, so far as the same shall be revealed to us, conscientiously attending to the public worship of God, the sacraments of His New Testament; the discipline of His Kingdom according to the Platform of Unity affixed to the Savoy Declaration of 1658, along with all His holy institutions, living in communion with one another, and watchfully avoiding all sinful stumbling-blocks and contentions as becomes a people whom God has bound up together in a common life?
6. What does it mean to vow and why is it important?
- i. the Hebrew Scriptures
 - ii. Jesus: Matthew 5:33-37
 - iii. James: James 5:12
 - iv. Paul: Acts 21:18-24
others: "I swear before God, I am not lying."
 - v. God: Hebrews 6:13-18
- b. How do we explain this?

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- c. Who needs to be able to make such promises of their own free will?
 - i. ANYONE wishing to be acknowledged as a Christian in our congregation

 - ii. OF ANY AGE

7. Why catechise?

8. Why not require that people hold to “Calvinism”?

- a. we do; they just might not know it?
 - i. look at the vows again

 - ii. justification by grace alone, through the gift of faith alone, in Christ alone

 - iii. the “Five Points of Calvinism” are just a discretion of the above.

 - iv. you could live your whole redeemed life and never utter the word

 - v. “Calvin” or Calvinism” but...

9. What the session wants to hear when children come before the session: