



We Believe

We believe the more Jesus is at the center of faith then the healthier our

faith tends to be—and conversely, when Jesus is diminished or avoided, then toxic beliefs and practices are more likely to find their way to prominence. Our CWR/PTM statement of faith is titled “We Believe”—based on the organization of the Apostles Creed:

God—We believe in one eternal, triune God who is three co-essential, yet distinct Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ—We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, begotten of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, fully God and fully human, the Son of God and Lord of all, worthy of worship, honor and reverence, who died for us as a supreme expression of God’s love, was raised bodily from the dead, ascended to heaven and will come again as King of kings.

The Holy Scriptures—We believe the Bible constitutes the divinely inspired written revelation of God, the foundation of truth, the record of God’s revelation to humanity.

Salvation—We believe that human salvation is the gift of God, by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, not earned by personal merits or good works.

The Church—We believe in the universal body of Christ and the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Two major creeds came out of early Christian history—one called the Apostle’s Creed and the other called The Nicene Creed. “Creed” is an English word that is derived from the Latin word *credo*—*credo* literally translated means “I believe.”

Each statement in The Apostle’s Creed, the earliest and most well known of the creeds, begins with the words “I believe.” Some have asked, “OK, so you see the need for Jesus to be in the spotlight and center stage. But what does that look like? Can you give me some examples of how you are different from other Christians? Just what kind of a Christian are you anyway?”

CWR/PTM is **Christianity without the religion**. We are in harmony with the universal body of Christ, of which Jesus is the head. That said, we absolutely disagree with Christ-less religion (including that found within modern day Christendom) and adamantly believe in grace-based faith expressed by following Jesus as a way of life.

Why *without* the religion? Religion is generally defined and understood as a systematic and organized collection of teachings and practices that, if and when adhered to and followed, will mean that God will be more pleased than he would have otherwise been.

When understood from this perspective, religion wars against the grace of God, for the grace of God says that our relationship with God is not at all, in any way, earned as a result of our performance of rules, rituals or regulations.

When we say “All Jesus All the Time” we mean *religion-less Christianity*, which is a term popularized by the German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was executed by the Nazis during World War 2.

CWR and PTM are all about following Jesus. Here are a few examples of what we believe

following Jesus looks like which differ with assumptions found throughout Christendom:

- As Christ-followers we are members of the body of Christ—the church is what we are, far more than a place we go and a building we attend. Church membership or church attendance, or lack thereof, can be helpful or detrimental but not absolutely central to faith. Jesus is.

- The cross of Christ changed everything—including the rules and regulations of the Old Covenant.

- We refuse to believe in a God of wrath and anger, who is against you and me. The gospel of Jesus Christ is clear—God is all about his love and grace. We reject teachings that have God the Father torturing and killing his Son on the cross so that he wouldn’t have to kill and torture us. We do not serve a god who must be appeased, whose sense of holiness and righteousness have been so offended that someone must die so that his wrath can be satisfied.

- In the same vein, we reject the hell that religion in fact has fabricated—a hell that religion needs because it must keep people in fear. We reject a hell of eternal conscious torment (ECT) as being entirely incongruous and at odds with the revelation of the Father in the Son —a God of love, grace, mercy and compassion.

We believe “All Jesus All the Time” is *Christianity Without the Religion*. □

Join us for “All Jesus All the Time—Why?” at the audio teaching ministry of Christianity Without the Religion, the week of September 12, 2021.