

I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY,

maker of heaven and earth,

AND IN JESUS CHRIST, GOD'S 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 into hell.

On the third day he rose again from the
dead.

He ascended to heaven and is seated

at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come again 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.

Part 7: I Believe in the Church

Ephesians 4:4-6

4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Galatians 3:26-29

26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Hebrews 12:1, 22-24

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, 23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Part 7: I Believe in the Church

Message notes:

The word catholic means _____.

The Church is not one nationality—it is _____ tribe, tongue, and language

There are different expressions and emphasis, but there is only _____ Church.

It takes the _____ body of Christ to become the Church.

You don't lose your heritage, you lay down your identity. You are now something _____ than that.

What breaks communion is division—and God _____ it. We have to fight for unity.

The puritans believed at times that there was a _____ separating our world from the Spiritual world.

We are people of _____.

Forgiveness of sins is not just coming to Christ, it's needing His _____.

Additional notes:

Part 7: I Believe in the Church

Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Jamie emphasizes that 'catholic' with a small 'c' means universal, representing all believers across denominations rather than specifically referring to the Roman Catholic Church. How has your perspective on Christian unity across different denominations evolved throughout your faith journey?
2. Pastor Jamie references Paul's teaching in Ephesians 4:4-6 about one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God & Father of all. What does it mean to you to be welcomed into a family of believers that is called to unity?
3. The message discussed the 'thin veil' between earth and heaven, referencing Hebrews 12 and the 'great cloud of witnesses.' Have you ever experienced a moment of spiritual connection with the broader community of believers, past or present?
4. Pastor Jamie describes the church as an 'ugly church' of broken, flawed believers who are made holy through Christ's grace rather than their own perfection. How has receiving Christ's grace, rather than striving for perfection, changed how you view your role in the church community?
5. Pastor Jamie discusses how some believed denying baptism meant permanent exclusion, but the church needed to embrace forgiveness and restoration. When have you struggled to extend or receive forgiveness within the church community, and how did you work through it?

Ministry Time:

The message encouraged those disillusioned with faith due to past hurts from the church to bring their disillusionment to Jesus, practicing forgiveness and embracing the grace-filled community of believers. Pray for anyone who is struggling with accepting the Church because of this disillusionment.

The message emphasized the importance of forgiving others as part of living in a community of grace. Pray for anyone who needs strength to extend forgiveness to someone around them.