

## **Core Beliefs Measured in Actions**

As mentioned in the *New Testament to Historical Context*, most of the New Testament authors either walked with Jesus or were directly influenced by those that did walk with Jesus. Therefore, when I look at my core beliefs and what I see as the most important beliefs for Christians, I am framed by the New Testament.

There are so many beliefs that are biblical. it would take volumes from teams of scholars to address. While the Apostle's Creed, written in 390 AD says so much concisely, many Christians widely believe it is incomplete in many ways. Nonetheless, regular reading and reminders are worthy, so it is below:



### **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell,

The third day he rose again from the dead  
He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty  
From there he will 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

\* That is, the true Christian church of all times and all places

For me, the Apostle's Creed includes much that is the core of Christian beliefs, but not necessarily how we must act as Christians when we believe. With that in mind and a hopeful soul, I offer my humble opinion on *Core Beliefs Measured in Actions* below.

### **Core Beliefs Measured in Actions**

We have a loving God, a God that expects us to love our neighbor and even love our enemies.  
We must be loving to all brothers and sisters.

We have a forgiving God who sent His only son to us "...to free us from every kind of sin."  
(Titus 2:14)

We must be forgiving with others without exceptions.

We have a merciful God as in Psalms 25:10, "All the ways of the Lord are mercy and truth..."  
We must be reciprocal with others as in 2 Samuel 22:26, "With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful."

We have a God of grace as in 2 Corinthians 12:19, "...My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

No matter our physical or spiritual frailties, we are whole and well.

We have a compassionate God as in Isaiah 63:7, "I will tell of the kindness of the Lord....according to his compassion and many kindnesses."

Kindness begets kindness, as in Luke 6:31, "And as you wish others would do for you, so do to them."

We have a God that expects us to be patient with one another as in Ephesians 4:2, "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."

May each one of us find the patience He desires.

We have a God that expects us to be humble as in Micah 6:8, "To act justly and to love mercy and with walk humbly with your God."

We must keep our egos in check and understand what is truly important to be fully humble.

The Lord expects us to be givers as in Luke 6:30, "Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put in your lap. For with the measure, you use it will be measured back to you."

Giving and giving back also brings happiness and joy.

We have a God that instills strength and is uplifting as in Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

We can rise from great depths with faith and without fear in Him.

We have a God that wants us to spread the word, as Mark 16:15 states, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."

We must speak up for what is right and righteous in Him.

We have a God that rewards the doers as in James 1:23-25, "For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer...But the one who looks into perfect law, the law of liberty and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."

We must be persistently proactive to affect positive change.

We have a God that has expectations in us as Isaiah 1:17 states, "Learn to do good, seek justice, correct oppression, bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause."

The Lord expects us to stand up for those in need.

We are saved by the blood of Jesus; still, while we must praise Him, we must honor Him in our actions as much or more than our words.

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