

Seminar 3 – Keeping to the Path of Biblical Truth

This seminar will provide the opportunity for each leader to consider the importance of developing a personal and corporate statement of faith. In understanding the Scripture, students will begin to lay a biblical foundation so that they can recognize false teaching. Proper testing of false doctrine will be reviewed in order to equip student for faithful leadership using sound doctrine. The Seminar will:



1. Review the Apostle’s Creed as well as a church’s statement of faith to determine why each theme is included. Students will compare their beliefs to both documents and make changes they should make to their personal statement of faith.
2. Articulate the beliefs that make-up their own personal faith by comparing their beliefs to both documents and note changes they should make to their statement of faith.
3. Be able to define both “sound doctrine” and “false doctrine.”
4. Know the biblical tests that help one to recognize when doctrine has been distorted.
5. Be able to differentiate between true and false doctrine through the use of case studies.
6. Identify how false doctrine and extremes infiltrate and undermine the church and the gospel.

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(Video link- Introduction)

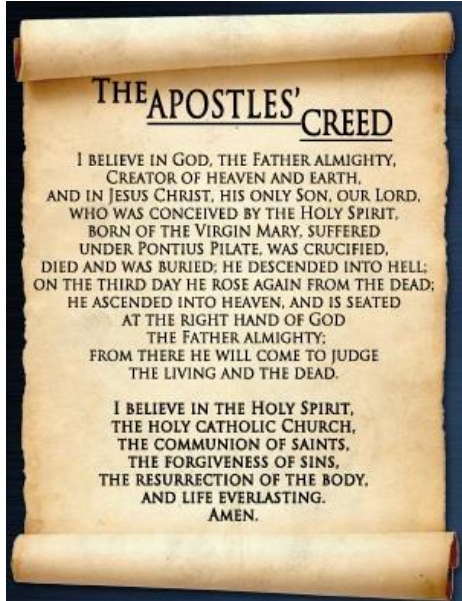
Session 1: I Believe... Develop Your Personal Faith Statement?

Introduction: What we believe about God and other spiritual matters will affect what we believe about everything else in our lives. These beliefs affect decisions and actions. So, it is very important that we know what it is that we believe. When we believe something, we are convinced that that something is true and dependable. We trust in it, we rely on it, we have confidence in it, we have faith in gospel truth.

Illustrations of Faith – Complete two trust activities displaying belief, assurance, and commitment. 1) Sitting in a chair. 2) A trust fall where person falls backwards

Large Group Discussion – What are the core beliefs of Christianity? Write down several ideas you learned from the discussion.

Church History as a Guide – Throughout the history of the church, several creedal statements were written to keep the core gospel beliefs central to the life of the church. The Latin word “*CREDO*” means “I BELIEVE” and the Apostles’ Creed is an important statement that helps us keep on the path of biblical truth.



What do you learn from the Apostles’ Creed?

How might you explain the phrase “holy catholic church”?

How does the Apostles’ Creed describe what the church should believe? In what ways does it encourage you to express what you personally believe?



Kampala Baptist Church - Let’s review their Statement of Faith and compare and contrast it to what you believe. Break into **small groups** and read through Kampala Baptist Church’s Statement of Faith. Make some observations about the topics you find in the Statement. (*For instance, consider why Statement 1 is about the importance of the Bible. Also, how does Statement 2 explain the work of the Trinity? etc.*) **Be ready to discuss what you observe as you report back to the large group.** KBC’s statement begins with “We believe:”

1. That the Bible is God's word that reveals His mind concerning the need and method of human redemption, that it was written by men who were divinely and uniquely inspired and thus it is perfect and absolutely trustworthy and is the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct (II Timothy 3:16, 17; Luke 24:44; II Peter 1:21).

2. There is one and only one, true God, who is living, self-existent, eternal and infinite in every excellence and who exists in three persons –the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit- one in essence though distinct in personality (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:21,22; Jeremiah 10:10; John 1:1-13; Acts 5:3,4; II Corinthians 13:14).
3. Satan, the enemy of God and man, exists and seeks unlawful dominion through the overthrow of God's beneficent rule. (Genesis 3:1-14, Ezekiel 28:13-19, John 8:44, Revelation 12:9,20:2).
4. In the fall of man and the consequent need for redemption making all men sinners by nature and by choice, but that " God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Therefore, those who receive Christ as their Lord and Savior will rejoice forever in God's presence and those who refuse to accept Christ as such shall be separated from God both now and forever in an everlasting fiery hell. (Romans 5:12, John 1:12,3:36; Revelation 20:15).
5. That the work of the Holy Spirit in man is to convict him of sin, of righteousness and of judgement and regenerate, indwell, sanctify and comfort and fill those who believe in Jesus Christ. (John 16:7-15; Ephesians 5:18; I Corinthians 3:16)
6. That the church is a living spiritual body of which Jesus is the head and of which all saved persons are members. A visible church is composed of regenerated believers voluntarily united together for worship, work and fellowship. In conformity with the biblical New Testament practice believers should congregate in localized places in different areas of the world of which our church is one. Such churches have been committed until the return of Jesus Christ for the observance of two ordinances; baptism and the Lords supper.
7. Ordinances of baptism and Lord's Supper: baptism by immersion is a symbol of the believer's union with Christ in his death and resurrection. Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death and undying love symbolizing the fact that the believer is nourished and sustained by the eternal love of Jesus Christ. Believers baptism is done by immersion and is done once after conversion whereas the Lords supper is to be repeated by the congregation and the believer regularly. (Mathew 28:19-20, Romans 6:3-4, I Corinthians 11:17-34; Colossians 1:12).
8. The first day of the week, the Lord's Day is especially honored in the work of God being the day on which our Lord Jesus Christ arose from the dead and appeared to his disciples and gave the Holy Spirit. On it churches in the New Testament observed the Lord's Supper and on it, we believers are directed to lay aside our means as God has prospered us. That notwithstanding, we do not believe that we are under Sabbath law regarding it. We believe that because of the honor bestowed upon it in the scriptures God desires us to set it apart as a day of worship in honor to him. (Revelation 1:10; Mark 16: 9; I Corinthians 16 :1-2; Colossians 2; 16,17)
9. That each visible church is independent and self-governing under the dictates of the word of God and that the church and the state should be separate (Matthew 22:21: I Corinthians

6:2-6). God has commissioned these churches to persuade a lost world to accept Jesus Christ as savior and to enthrone Him as Lord and master. Human betterment and social improvement are essential products of the gospel and should be actively pursued by all churches and believers.

10. That our Lord Jesus Christ shall return and we shall be caught up to meet Him in the air and so shall we forever be with the Lord. (I Thessalonians 4:16,17; I Corinthians 15: 51-52)

Large Group Discussion - What caught your attention in KBC's Statement of Faith? What did you learn from their Statement? How can you grow in your understanding of what you believe?

Seminar 3 Assignment

Develop Your Personal Faith Statement- A personal statement of faith is an explanation of your spiritual beliefs. It is made up of several statements that usually begin with "I believe...." By the end of this Seminar, you will write your own statements of what you believe, supporting your beliefs with a verse or two from Scripture.

Your statement of belief will reflect your personal relationship with God and your understanding of Scripture. You may not know exactly what you believe about every spiritual topic. That is why you are here, to learn and to grow in your understanding of faith. Your statement of faith should grow and change with you.

There are many topics that could be included in your statement of faith. You will not be able to address them all in this Seminar, but you can develop at least 20 statements from the categories that are of interest to you. After you return home, you can develop more. You may have more than one statement for each category. Following are some suggestions to get your started. **Notice the examples in 1 and 2 and use that format as you start writing your statement.**

1. What do you believe about the Scripture? How was it written? Is it without error and infallible? Is the Bible relevant for today? (*Example: I believe that the Scripture is the Word of God. I believe it is free from error and guides our steps for living. I Tim.3:16, Psalm 119*).
2. What do you believe about mankind? Have all sinned? What are the consequences of sin? (*Example: I believe that Man (Adam) was created in the image of God. I believe that he fell from his sinless state through disobedience after being tempted by Satan. I believe that this fall plunged him and all of his descendants into a state of sin and spiritual death. Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 3; Romans 5:12*)

3. What do you believe about God? Who is he? What is his character? What does he do? Do you believe in the Trinity?

4. What do you believe about Jesus? Is he the Son of God? Why did he come to earth? Was he the Messiah? Was he born of a virgin? Did he have to die? Was he resurrected?

5. What do you believe about the Holy Spirit? Why was he sent? What does he do?

6. What do you believe about Satan and evil? Heaven and Hell?

7. How do you believe a person is saved?

8. What do you believe about the church? Why was it established? What is its role?

9. What do you believe about the end times?

10. What do you believe about how God created the heavens and the earth?

11. Can you think of other topics that could be considered? - (Baptism, Lord's supper, the will of God, eternal security and more)

Close your writing with a time of prayer thanking God for his work in your life.