

ANCIENT FOUNDATIONS

BELIEF, FAITH & TRUST

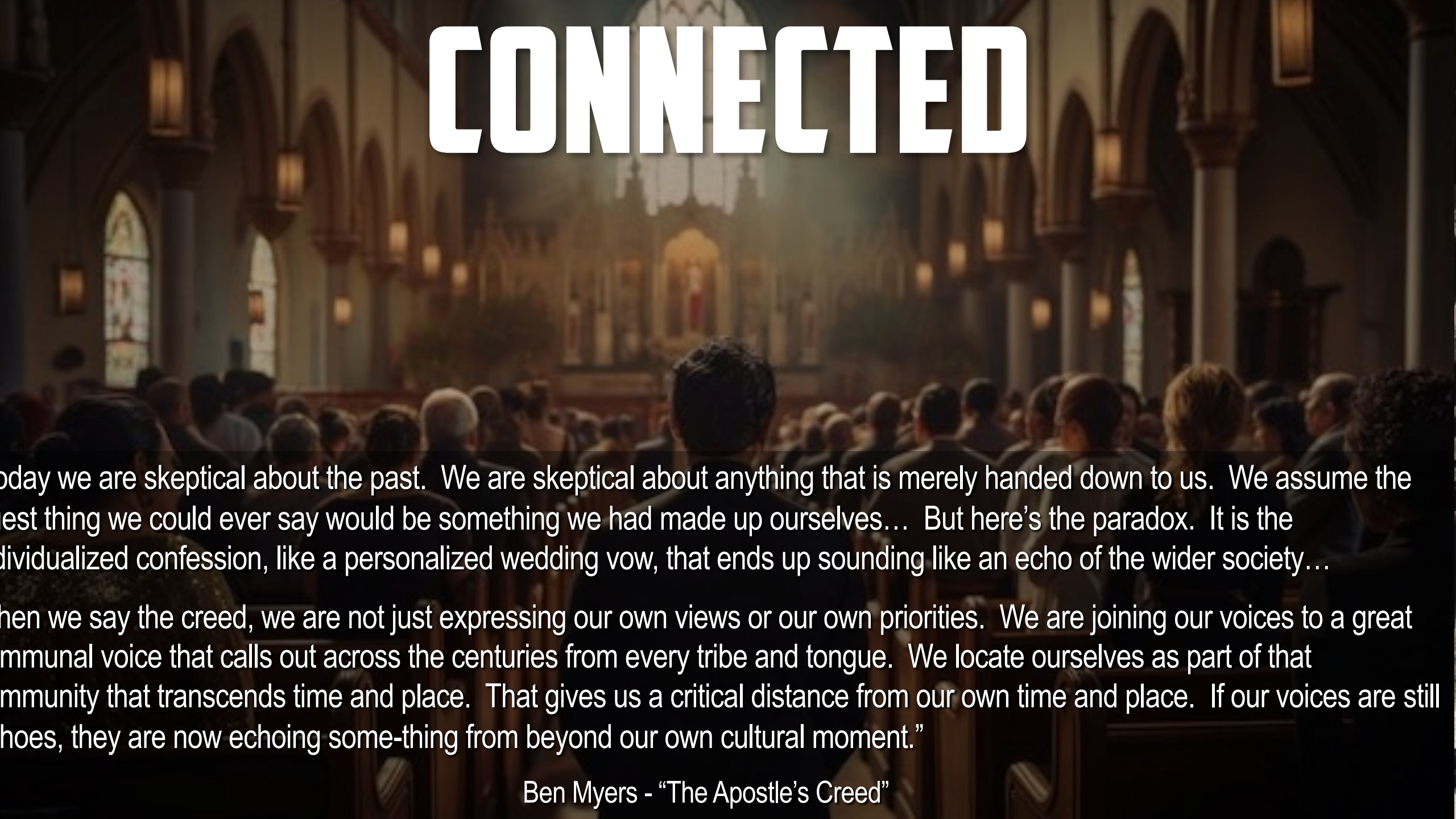
James 2:14,17

WHAT GOOD IS IT,
DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
IF YOU SAY
YOU HAVE FAITH BUT DON'T SHOW IT
BY YOUR ACTIONS?
CAN THAT KIND OF FAITH SAVE ANYONE?
-JAMES 2:14 (NLT)

You can no more trust Jesus and not intend to obey him than you could trust your doctor and your auto mechanic and not intend to follow their advice. If you don't intend to follow their advice, you simply don't trust them. Period.

Dallas Willard

CONNECTED

A large crowd of people is seen from behind, filling a church. They are looking towards an altar area in the distance. The church has high ceilings with arched windows and columns. The lighting is warm and somewhat dim, creating a solemn atmosphere.

Today we are skeptical about the past. We are skeptical about anything that is merely handed down to us. We assume the best thing we could ever say would be something we had made up ourselves... But here's the paradox. It is the individualized confession, like a personalized wedding vow, that ends up sounding like an echo of the wider society...

When we say the creed, we are not just expressing our own views or our own priorities. We are joining our voices to a great communal voice that calls out across the centuries from every tribe and tongue. We locate ourselves as part of that community that transcends time and place. That gives us a critical distance from our own time and place. If our voices are still hoarse, they are now echoing some-thing from beyond our own cultural moment."

Ben Myers - "The Apostle's Creed"

FOUNDATIONS

1 Corinthians 3:1-11, Ephesians 4:11-14

For no one
can lay a
FOUNDATION
other than that
which is laid,
which is
Jesus Christ.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:11 (ESV)

...to equip God's people to do His work & build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.

- Ephesians 4:11-14 -

ORIGIN OF THE CREED

Matthew 28:18-20

GO THEREFORE
&
make disciples of all nations,
BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME
of the Father and of the
Son AND the
HOLY SPIRIT

MATTHEW 28:19



PURPOSE OF THE CREED



believe in God,

the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His 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 into 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 life everlasting.

men

The Creed is easy to remember and provides the believer with a basic guide to retain the substance of the Biblical story:

- God who is manifested as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- Working together in the confines of time and space...
- By sending God incarnate as Jesus, born as man, and coming to die.
 - To bring hope and redemption to broken human existence...
 - And in the end to restore all things fully in the resurrection.

The Creed is one of Church's earliest doctrinal statements:

- It has shaped orthodox Christian belief for over 2000 years.
- It was not influenced in any way by a response to heresy
- It was not influenced by politics like some of the later creeds...

The Creed is sacramental:

- It's a pledge of allegiance to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- It unifies me with something universally timeless and true.
- It's a submission of my beliefs to the truths of God revealed to us.

GIVING UP OUR WAY

Matthew 16:24-25

“THEN JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES,

“ **IF ANY**

OF YOU WANTS TO BE MY FOLLOWER,
YOU MUST GIVE UP YOUR OWN WAY,
TAKE UP YOUR CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME.

IF YOU TRY TO HANG ON TO YOUR LIFE,

YOU WILL LOSE IT.

BUT IF YOU GIVE UP YOUR LIFE FOR

MY SAKE,

YOU WILL SAVE IT.”

-MATTHEW 16:24-25 NLT

