

February 23, 2020

**Series: How Can Jesus Be The Only Way
Part 2**

What's your favorite Beatles song?

What do you remember from last Sunday's message?

What were some things that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

A 17th century German theologian once suggested that as Christians we should have *“Unity in the essentials, liberty in the non-essentials, and in all things love.”* What do you think the “essentials” of the Christian faith are? i.e. what beliefs are common to all Jesus-followers?

This is a very general summary of Hope's statement of faith from our web-site. *God is love, always has been, always will be. God made people very special - patterned after his own personality, which means people are the most precious creatures on earth. Since God patterned people after himself, every person has free will - the ability to choose to accept his love, or to ignore him and that love. When we choose the latter, we find ourselves in need of a Savior. God came to earth as a human, in the person of Jesus Christ, to save us. He invites us to give him our disease and sickness, weakness and failure, evil and death, and in exchange offers us the gift of forgiveness, life, healing, and salvation. Those who choose to believe in Jesus have a brand new life, and a brand new destiny.*

[A more detailed statement of faith can be viewed by clicking a link on that page. Also, should the discussion lead in this direction, you can refer to the Apostles Creed - a very early summary of the foundational Christian beliefs from the fourth century. I've included it at the end of these notes].

Is there anything you think should be added to or removed from this summary of Hope's statement of faith?

The word “Gospel” means “good news.” Why is the Gospel good news?

Romans 6:23 says *“The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus.”* Is this verse true for everyone, or just for those with a particular religious or cultural background?

Is it possible for someone to be rescued from a sinking boat even if they don't know the rescuers name or anything about the rescuer?

If you were rescued by a stranger, how determined would you be to learn the rescuers name and what kind of person they are?

Is it possible for someone to be rescued if they insist they didn't need rescuing or didn't want to be rescued?

Read Matthew 28:18-20

“Jesus came and told his disciples, ‘I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’” Matthew 28:18–20 (NLT)

Why is it so important that we as Jesus followers go into all the world and make disciples? What would the world be like if we didn't?

Why is Jesus the one and only hope of the world?

The Apostolic Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,
the communion of the saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.