

An EfM Creed

This creed was drafted by an EfM group in response to Common Lesson 4, *Your Personal Theology: Writing your own Creed*. From the introduction to the Common Lesson:

The purpose of this lesson is to help you map your theology or, in other words, to express your systems of belief about God and human life. These beliefs express your understanding of the nature of God, your own existence in relationship with God, your relationship to the rest of humankind, and finally, your relationship to the world.

Each group will have a different response to Common Lessons. This is one example.

I believe God the Creator is ever faithful to God's people, omnipotent, omniscient, and all encompassing. God is loving, forgiving and generous.

I believe Jesus Christ is the pattern of our human life, true God and true human, visible and invisible, the alpha and omega. He procured our gift of salvation.

I believe the Holy Spirit is the glorifying One, our divine intercessor who provides us with the understanding of presence of God, in divine energy, wisdom, and humor.

I believe love is the power and an unconditional gift of God. It is ever-patient and affirming. Love transforms us, shows us grace and the possible. Love is beyond good and evil.

I believe humans are made for God and conscious of God's mystery and always yearning, in need of help. Humans are ministry in action.

I believe Creation is God's love in action, God's divine handiwork. Creation is God's gift to us, eternal, ever evolving and good. It is entrusted to us and yet beyond our imagining,

I believe Sin is the willful ignoring of God's love, by straying from the divine through selfishness, lack of love, and presuming to know God's will.

I believe Judgment belongs exclusively to God and is God's mercy in action. It is feared but redeeming, pulls us toward God, and breaks us open and liberates.

I believe Repentance is a turning back to God through a change of heart and making restitution, and leads to God's forgiveness. It is a humbly sorrowful ongoing process.

I believe Redemption the restoration to wholeness of our relationship to God. It comes as our transformation through Jesus Christ when we fully trust God's love and grace.

I believe that community is a foretaste of redemption and redemption happens through the experience of community.

AMEN