

## Creeds

1. **Ac 20:29-30; 1Tim 4:1-3; 2Tim 3:13** - What did Paul warn about?
2. **Ac 15:1-2** - What issue arose in the early church and how did Paul and Barnabas respond to it? (See also **Gal 2:3-5**)  
Note: the early Christians faced other issues challenging their faith, e.g., **Col 2:16-22; 2Jn 1:7-11; Rev 3:18-23**; etc.
3. How do divergent views affect people, **Gal 1:7, 5:10; 2Th 2:2**.
4. When faced with having to choose what is “right,” people may look for assurance to a clear voice of authority. What are some of those authoritative sources people of the 1<sup>st</sup> century rested on...
  - a. **Mt 15:2,9**
  - b. **Jn 7:47-48; Gal 2:6**
  - c. **2Th 2:1-2**
5. Measures men throughout history decided upon to settle the disturbing, and sometimes very grave, doctrinal differences facing them
  - a. Clement of Rome (30?-?100 - WBD) - Unity achieved by obedience to the elders who were successors of the apostles
  - b. Ignatius of Antioch (1st-2nd cent.) - Unity achieved only by one individual in each congregation assuming a position of authority
  - c. Irenaeus (c. 130-200) - Orthodoxy and unity established by recognizing the authority of the bishops whose succession could be traced from the beginning to his day
  - d. Creeds, e.g. the Nicene Creed, 325 AD
  - e. Presiding elder, or “bishop” — 2<sup>nd</sup> century (over provinces) ... four “metropolitans,” or “patriarchs”—4<sup>th</sup> century (in four leading cities—Tome, Alexandria, Antioch, Constantinople ) ... Pope—606 AD (universal authority in the churches)
6. Protestant Reformation Movement, c. 16<sup>th</sup> century - protesting doctrines in the Roman Catholic Church, men pulled off and their followers formed different religious groups of churches, or “denominations.” Each denomination had creeds, e.g. “Augsburg Confession” (1530) - Lutherans; “Westminster Confession” (1643) - Presbyterians; “Philadelphia Confession” (1688), “London Confession of Faith” (1689), “New Hampshire Confession” (1833) - Baptists; “Book of Discipline” (1784-many revisions since) - Methodists; etc.
7. Define “creed.”
8. What is the purpose of a religious creed?
9. What is the sole authority for those who follow Christ? **Mt 19:4; 1Co 1:12-13; 2:5; 4:6; 14:37; 2Ti 3:16-17**
10. What is every individual encouraged to do relative to what they hear or read? **Mt 7:15...20..21-23...24; 1Jn 4:1; Ac 17:11; 1Th 5:19-22**
11. In view of the diversity of views and practices sailing under the banner of “Church of Christ,” a church decides to write a short statement of what it stands for titled, “What We Believe.” What do you think about this? Explain.
12. In an effort to combat the inroads of apostasy, knowledgeable and respected preachers formulate a list of beliefs that a preacher must ascribe to before a congregation will consider supporting him. Do you agree or disagree with this practice? Explain.