

Dec 31 ,2023

What Did You Say? unpacking "churchy" words



Any group has its own set of "jargon" - words that the group uses with a common understanding. As Christians, we often forget that some words we use (faith, god, saved, hope) are not universally understood in the same way we use them. In this discussion, we will help define some of these words and help "translate" so we can more effectively share the Good News of Jesus Christ for all people.

Our Common Statement of Faith (the Apostles' Creed):

What words might someone think of differently?

I believe in God the Father Almighty,

Maker 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;

the third day He rose again from the dead;

He ascended into heaven,

and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence He will come

to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;

and the life everlasting. Amen

Write your own brief summary of what you believe.

(What does it mean to be a Christian?)

What words did you use that others might understand differently?

(Is it possible to do this without encountering this issue?)

How can we communicate the truth of God clearly?

What specific words should we “unpack” in this study?