



**St. Mary's Church  
Stone Harbor, New Jersey**

**Sunday May 13, 2018**

**We Welcome You to Join Us  
For the Adult Forum and  
Worship  
All Year Long (well, almost)!**



Last Sunday I referred to the opposition to "Reclaiming Jesus" movement. Here is a brief excerpt from the document I alluded to. From: "The Wesleyan Resistance," author - Patty David, first rejection (the following is a quote)

I REJECT their conclusion that we must commit ourselves to help "dismantle the systems and structures that perpetuate white preference and advantage." What do they even mean by that statement? What systems and structures? What "white preference and advantage"? Don't be fooled here. This is about a political agenda designed to specifically disadvantage the white male. They want to dismantle Capitalism, our political structures, the family, the church, and any other institution that they see as white-centered. I hate to break it to them, but in our history, only 12-15% of our population has been black. I understand how difficult it is to be a minority, but OF COURSE there are a large number of white people in various corporate positions and political positions and other leadership positions. That doesn't make the systems themselves inherently racist. Dismantling systems isn't the answer; changing hearts is. I thought these were Christian leaders! They, of all people, should know better than to seek an earthly, temporal solution to a spiritual problem. We need to change hearts. There is nothing inherently racist about our systems and structures, unless, of course, there's a company out there that discriminates on the basis of color. Quite the opposite is usually true these days.

To get started thinking about the Nicene Creed, here is a few questions:

1. Why is the Nicene Creed so titled?

- It resolves theological controversies in a nice manner
- It was adopted by the first ecumenical council that met in Nicaea
- The author was the bishop of Nicaea

2. The Nicene Creed is the only creed accepted by all three major branches of Christianity?

True/False

3. The original Nicene Creed (325 CE) describes the Father Almighty as Maker of what?

- Heaven and hell
- All things visible and invisible
- Things near and far

4. The Nicene Creed continues, "And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father." This assertion of faith was calculated to deny the teachings of one man who was declared a heretic at the Council.

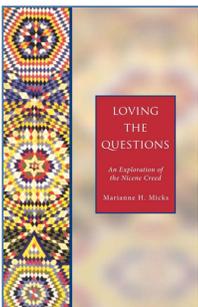
- Elmo of Cappadocia
- Arius
- Barnabas

5. The Nicene Creed describes Jesus as follows: "by [or through] whom all things were made." In the Bible, which Gospel writer more or less uses this phrase to describe Jesus?

- Matthew Mark Luke John

6. The original Nicene Creed (325 CE) makes no mention of Pontius Pilate and does not explicitly state that Jesus was crucified and buried. True/False

7. According to the Nicene Creed, where does the Son sit after his ascension into heaven?
  - With the angels
  - On the right hand of the Father
  - Between the Father and the Holy Ghost
8. Complete this line from the Nicene Creed: "From thence he shall come to judge the \_\_\_ and the dead."
  - Lost
  - Quick
  - Confused
9. The original Nicene Creed asserted faith in "one holy catholic and apostolic Church."
  - True/False
10. Complete this line from the Nicene Creed: "We acknowledge one \_\_\_ for the remission of sins."
  - last effort
  - confession
  - baptism
11. When Christians recited the Nicene Creed today, what two things do they say they look forward to?
  - The end of political bickering and name calling
  - The resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come
  - The continuation of the soul and the second coming of Jesus
12. In the 6th century, a single Latin word was added to the Nicene Creed by the Latin-speaking churches of Western Europe, thus precipitating the split between the Western and Eastern church. What was that word?
  - Theotokos
  - Carpe denim
  - Filoque
13. In which of these churches are you least likely to find the Nicene Creed recited on a regular basis during services?
  - Druid Reformed
  - Baptist
  - Roman Catholic
  - Episcopal
14. In the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, how does the Nicene Creed begin?
  - The church believes
  - I believe
  - United we believe
15. In the Episcopal and Roman Catholic churches, the Nicene Creed is typically recited at baptism.
  - True/False



*Loving the Questions* is a series of reflections on the questions raised by the Nicene Creed. Taking us through the creed step-by-step, Marianne Micks not only poses the questions most asked by contemporary Christians, but also teaches us to delight in the questions themselves. Faith accompanied by doubt, she believes, is far healthier than faith that never asks "why?" In short, accessible chapters Micks informs us of the historical background of the Nicene Creed and reminds us of the creed's theological, communal, and personal relevance today. Paperback: 134 pages 10 chapters. Publisher: Seabury Books (February 1, 2004) \$14.95 Amazon

#### Calendar

**May 13 Introduction to the Nicene Creed**

**May 27 (Memorial Day weekend)** \_\_\_\_\_

**May 20 Pentecost** \_\_\_\_\_

**June 3** \_\_\_\_\_