

The New Testament Church Has No Human Creeds—A Mark that Matters

That the New Testament church has no made-made creed is a mark that matters. Man often writes his own creeds. The so-called apostles' creed is one of the earliest man-made creeds. The creed appears nowhere in the Bible. This creed and all other human creeds are not scripture and, therefore, not inspired. Many groups follow creed books.

Human creeds are dangerous. Paul warned: “6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!” Even a perversion is a different gospel! Gal. 1:6-9. *Eternally condemned* means *accursed*: Paul uses the word in I Cor. 16:22: “If anyone does not love the Lord — a curse be on him. “ Preaching any other gospel or perverting the gospel receives the strongest condemnation. In Gal 1:11-12, Paul adds: “1 I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. 12 I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.”

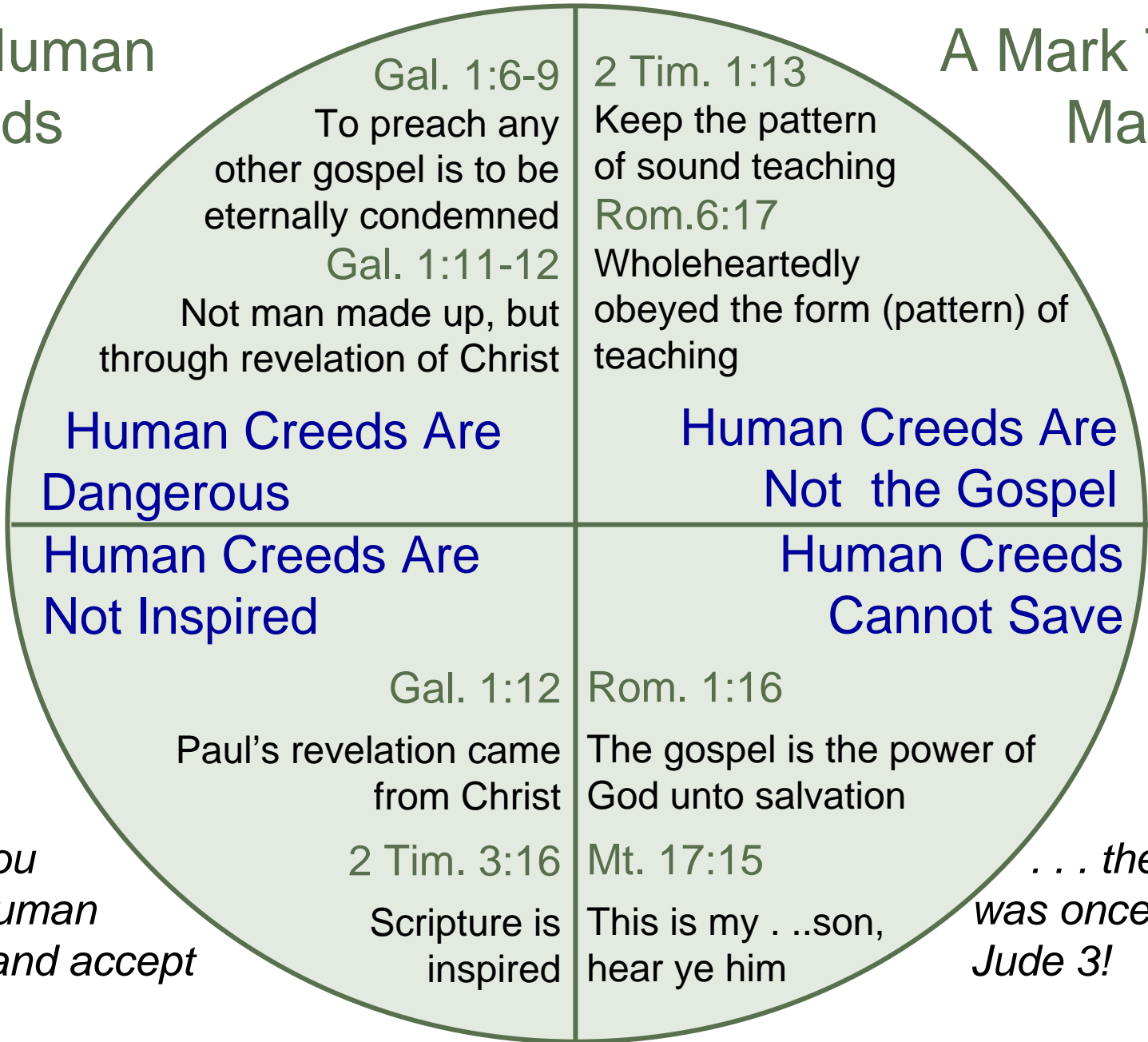
Human creeds are not the gospel. There is a pattern of sound teaching. Paul told Timothy: “What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching.” II Tim. 1:13. The word *pattern* is used by Paul to state the certainty of New Testament teaching: “17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. 18 You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.” Rom. 6:17-18. The same root word, TUPOS, is translated *form*—the same word we use for concrete forms. Change the shape of the form, and the shape of the material changes. When human creeds change the form of teaching, the outcome changes. No longer are servants of sin made servants of righteousness. Human creeds are neither the pattern of sound words from Paul nor the form of teaching delivered to the Romans!

Human creeds are not inspired revelation. They are human in idea and words. Paul's revelation came from Jesus Christ (Gal. 1:12). In Eph. 3: 3-4, Paul elaborates: “. . . 3 that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. 4 In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.” Since creeds are not revealed from Christ, they are not revelation, neither are they inspired. The Bible is clear: “16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” II Tim. 3:16.

Human creeds can not save. Paul said, “16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation.” Rom. 1:16. Peter said: “Crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.” I Pet. 2:2. God said: “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!” Mt. 17:5. *Won't you forget human creeds and “. . . contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints”.* Jude 3!

No Human
Creeds

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Won't you forget human creeds and accept

2 Tim. 3:16
Scripture is inspired

Mt. 17:15
This is my ...son, hear ye him

... the faith that was once delivered Jude 3!

The New Testament Church Has No Human Creeds

1. Who writes human creeds and creed books? _____
2. According to Paul, what is the penalty for following a different gospel? _____
3. What is the penalty for perverting the gospel? _____
4. What does *eternally condemned* mean? _____
5. Where did Paul get his revelation? _____
6. How did Paul describe what Timothy had heard from him? _____
7. What does the word pattern mean? _____
8. How does one get from being a slave of sin to being a slave of righteousness? _____
9. When one changes the form of teaching, what else changes? _____
10. Where did Paul get his revelation? _____
11. How can we understand what Paul knew of the mystery of Christ? _____
12. What is scripture? _____
13. For what is scripture useful? _____
14. To what extent do the scriptures equip a person? _____
15. What does Paul call God's power unto salvation? _____
16. For what are Christians to crave? _____
17. To whom did God say that we are to listen? _____
18. What does the phrase *the faith once for all entrusted to the saints* mean? _____