



# NUTS AND BOLTS OF TRINITARIAN THEOLOGY

PART – IX  
Ecclesia

# The Creed

- **We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.**



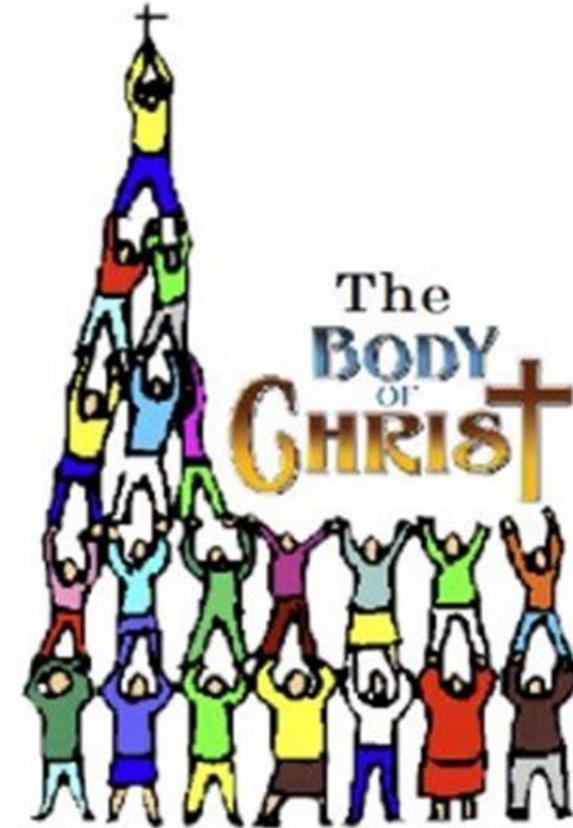
# People Say Church is...

- a building for public Christian worship.
- *(sometimes initial capital letter)* the whole body of Christian believers; Christendom.
- *(sometimes initial capital letter)* any division of this body professing the same creed and acknowledging the same ecclesiastical authority; a Christian denomination

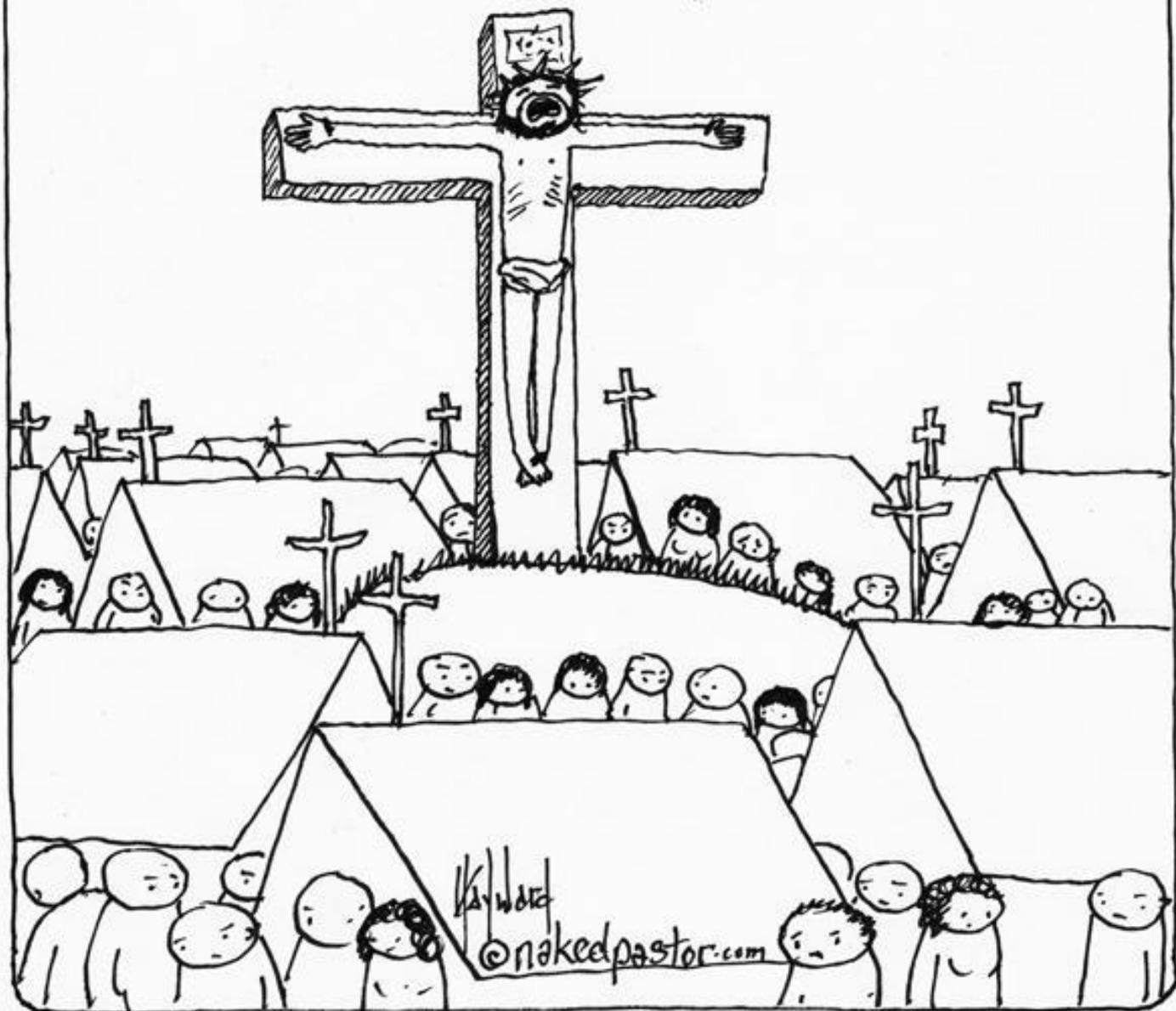


# Church is...

- A group of people
- The body of Christ
- People for whom Jesus gave His life
- It's both local and universal
- We should have Kingdom mindset



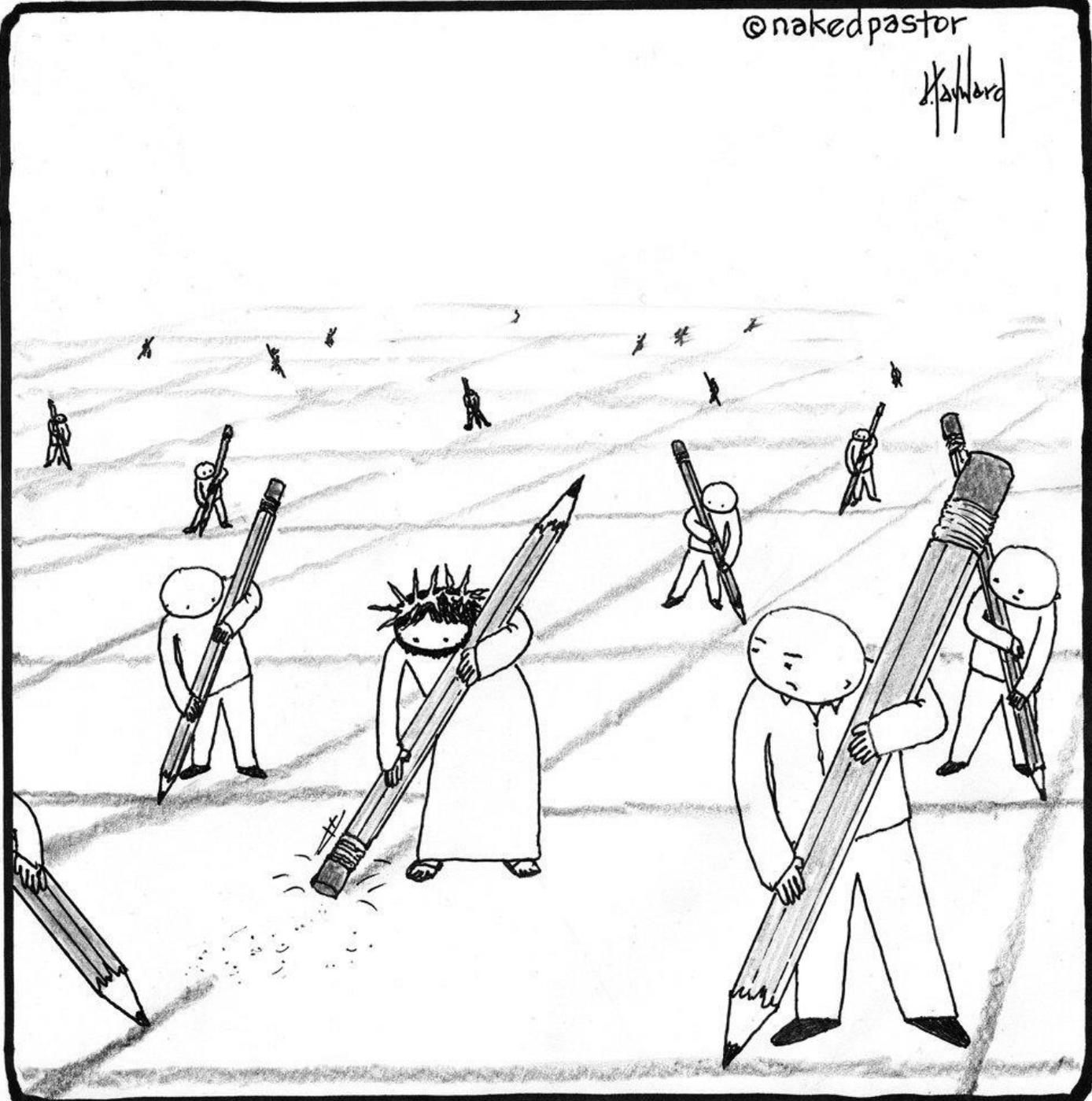
"Father, forgive them, for they do not what they know!"



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# Church is...

- Ephesians 5:25: Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved **the church and gave Himself for her**
- EPHESIANS 2:2,3: And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the **sons of disobedience**, <sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others
- This changes our attitude towards others and evangelism

# Holy Church

- **1 Corinthians 1:2:** To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those **who are sanctified in Christ Jesus**, called *to be* saints,
- **1 Corinthians 3:16-17:** Do you not know that **you are the temple of God** and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? ... **For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.**
- **Ephesians 5:25-27:** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and **gave Himself for her that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,** <sup>27</sup> that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.
- **Church is Holy because belongs to God, Christ's work of sanctification and Holy Spirit's indwelling**

# Believe in Church

- **1 JOHN 4:20:** If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; **for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?**
- **JOHN 13:35:** By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- **Christian can exist and progress in community only**
- **Christian Spirituality is seen in relationships only**



# NICENE CREED

- **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.**
- **We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father; God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God; begotten not made, one in being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven. By the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day He rose again, in fulfillment of the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.**

# Nicene Creed

- **We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

- The Bible does not blur the difference between believer and unbeliever, and neither should we. When we say that all people are forgiven, saved and reconciled in Christ, we mean that while we all belong to Christ, not all are in communion with him. While God has reconciled all to himself, not all are yet trusting and living in that reconciliation. So the apostle Paul says: “God was reconciling the world [*kosmos*] in Christ...We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled” ([2 Corinthians 5:19-20](#)). That is why ours is a ministry, not of condemnation, but of the announcement of Christ’s finished work of reconciliation, just as Paul exhorts us.
- That is why we do not agree with or teach any of the various forms of universalism. Rather, we bear witness to the biblical revelation and orthodox teaching on God’s own character, mind, heart, purpose and attitude towards all manifested in Jesus Christ. We preach the universal or cosmic lordship of Jesus Christ, and we hope in the cosmic reconciliation of all those created according to his image. Since the Bible communicates that it is God’s desire for all to come to him in repentance to receive his gracious and costly forgiveness, why would that not also be the desire for all followers of Jesus? Should we desire for others something less than God desires?

<https://www.gci.org/articles/do-we-teach-universalism/>