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A Plea for the Principle of a Creedless Church (Outline)

Earl Clement Davis

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Creechley Church. A Plea for,

Out line of Address in Pittsfield, Mass.

In connection with ordination, 1905. Alfred

Plea for the Principle of a Creedless Church.

- (1) Such a talk ought not to be made in a Democratic country.
- (2) Not a question of faith.
- (3) Not a question of relief.
- (4) Not a criticism of churches that still retain creeds.

What is a creed in its nature.

I Historically. ^{Judges.} Athanasius' creed.

Nicene " etc.

It is then a doctrine that is no longer vital. Egyptian mummy.

Life is too short to explain its meaning. Teach the old and eternal truths in terms of our own life.

III Why should not a ^{creed} doctrine be retained in the church to day?

- (1) It is woefully upon a doubtful basis.
- (2) It is intellectually impossible.
- (3) It is spiritually inconsistent with Christ's teachings.

IV. What attitude should we take.

(1) The free open church, where the spirit may truly free fly.

(2) In regard to intellectual truth we ought to be willing and ready to follow all things. Hold fast to that which is true. Scientist, the historical club, some method in church.

(3) We have no moral right to any artificial barrier.

A Plea for the Principle of a Creedless Church
Outline of an Address in Coordination with Ordination

Earl Clement Davis

Pittsfield, MA

1905

- I) A Plea for the Principle of a Creedless Church
 - 1) Such a talk ought not to be made in a Democratic country
 - 2) Not a question of faith
 - 3) Not a question of belief
 - 4) Not a criticism of churches that still retain creeds.

- II) What is a creed in its nature
 - 1) Historically.
 - i) {???
 - ii) Nicene creed.
 - iii) It is then a doctrine that is no longer vital
 - iv) Egyptian mummery
 - v) Life is too short to explain its meaning. Teach the old and eternal truths in terms of our own life.

- III) Why should not a creed be retained in the church today?
 - 1) It is morally upon a doubtful basis
 - 2) It is intellectually impossible
 - 3) It is spiritually inconsistent with Christ's teachings

- IV) What attitude should we take?
 - 1) The free open church, where the spirit may have free play
 - 2) In regard to intellectual truth we ought to be willing and ready to favor all things. Hold fast to that which is true. Scientist. The historical club. Same method in church.
 - 3) We have no moral right to any artificial barrier