

DR. EATON'S SERMON  
**The Modification of the Creed of the Universalist Church**

The Rev. Dr. C. H. Eaton in his sermon yesterday morning touched upon the modification of the old, or Winchester, Confession of Faith of the Universalist Church, adopted at the recent Chicago convention. The new creed of the Universalist Church embraces five principles, viz: The universal fatherhood of God, the spiritual authority and leadership of his son Jesus Christ, the trustworthiness of the Bible as containing a revelation from God, the certainty of retribution for sin, and the final harmony of all souls with God. Dr. Eaton said:

"We have no right to sacrifice our hearts or brains to any creed, and it is not proposed in adopting this new creed to make phraseology the test of fellowship in the Church or binding on individual conscience. It is a question often asked, 'Why have any creed at all?' The answer is, 'It is inevitable to have some creed.' It is impossible for any minister to stand in a pulpit without a creed of some kind or other, no matter what he may say to the contrary. His very denial of creed is a creed in itself. You never yet fought a political campaign without a creed, did you? You can't do anything in this world without a creed. You are living every day and every hour according to a creed of some kind.

"There is a great deal of nonsense nowadays about liberality of thought. There are no greater bigots in any church than in the so-called liberal churches. No man has a right to stand at his own altar and fling stones at the altars of other churches.

"We do not say that you must adopt this creed in your heart. To desire to become a follower of Christ is enough. But the world wants to know what the Universalist Church stands for, and it is necessary to have some profession of faith or principles.

"It is charged that the instructors and students of the denominational schools of other churches are handcuffed un their mental and moral beliefs. Such a charge cannot be made against the Universalist Church schools. Every student is commanded on his honor on entering a Universalist school to follow the dictates of his own conscience.

"All the world is talking about the Bible. The Universalist Church does not say that you shall or shall not accept any or all that is contained in the Bible. It simply stands for the revelation of God, which is contained in the Bible, and for the truth there laid down for human guidance."

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Transcribed on 13 Aug 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY