

## The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. AMEN.

### Why bother with Christian doctrine or a creed?

A concise and clear summary of some of the most important points of Christian faith.

- not a replacement for scripture
- not intended to be a complete description of Christian doctrine
- an aid to understanding the individual parts of the Bible correctly

### Historical background

- not actually written by the apostles
- an early edition of it quoted by Cyprian of Carthage (c. AD 210-258)

### The three parts to the creed

- Father, Son, Spirit
- God *above and beyond* us; God *for us*; God *in us*.

### I believe...

- *believe* in the full biblical sense: committed faith and trust in God
- Abraham in Romans 4.18-21.

*Recommended reading:* Charles Cranfield, *The Apostles' Creed: A Faith to Live By* (London/New York: Continuum, 1994, 2004).

## Part 1: God the Father, Almighty and Creator

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

### God the Almighty and Creator

#### *Creation by God*

- the fact of God as creator: Gen. 1.1
- the mystery of God's creation makes us humble: Job 38.4-19; Rom. 11.33-36
- the generosity of God's creation makes us thankful: Luther on the first article

#### *Creation for God's glory*

- the purpose of God's creation is his glorification: Isa. 43.5-7; 1 Cor. 10.31  
“We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom alone we must worship, and in whom alone we must put our trust; who is *eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible*; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; by whom *we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible to have been created*, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by his inscrutable providence for such end as his eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and *to the manifestation of his own glory.*” (*Scots Confession*, chapter 1)

### God the Father

He is first and foremost from all eternity the Father of his Son Jesus Christ. Then he also adopts us as his sons so that we can call him father.

- Father of *his Son*, Jesus Christ: Jn 17.1-5; Jn 5.26
- *Our Father*: Rom. 8.14-17; Matt. 6.9

#### *Objections*

- a vocal objection: it's a male-dominated and sexist view of God
- a silent objection: it's a painful idea if God is a father

#### *Applications*

- *trust* in his goodness: Matt. 7.11
- *lack of fear* in coming to him – Rom. 8.15.

### Conclusion

God's fatherhood means that we can have this knowledge of who this *almighty* God is - and yet not be afraid.

*Recommended Reading:* John Piper, *Let the Nations be Glad* (Leicester: IVP, 2003), pp. 22-27.