

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father, Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord:
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary:
Suffered under Pontius Pilate;
was crucified, dead and buried:
He descended into hell:
The third day he rose again from the dead:
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty:
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead:
I believe in the Holy Ghost:
The holy catholic church:
The communion of saints:
The forgiveness of sins:
The resurrection of the body:
And the life everlasting.
Amen

“I believe in God, the Father...”

1. “I ...”

-It is important to note that this creed starts with “I” and not “We.” While this is a creed of the Church may it not be forgotten that faith is _____. I cannot have faith for you, and you cannot have faith for me. We are not saved by the faith of another sinful human. You must have faith! When you say the Creed (and you mean it) you are stating your own personal faith and conviction.

- “In worship, the Creed is said in unison, but the opening words are ‘I believe’-not ‘we’: each worshipper speaks for himself.” (Packer, pg. 29)

-Remember that this creed was largely used for recital at the times of _____. So, the one being baptized would declare their individual belief in the truths contained in this creed.

2. “I believe...”

-What does it mean to believe? The word here used in the original Greek is πιστεύω (pisteuo) and comes from the word πίστις (pistis) which means “_____.” So “I believe” could be replaced with “I have faith in...”

-William Perkins (1558-1602) in his commentary on “The Creed” mentions three elements that are necessarily involved in a person “believing.” They are:

1. To _____ a thing
2. To acknowledge it as _____
3. To put _____ and _____ in it

-Therefore, to believe you must have _____, you must acknowledge what you know to be true, and you must trust and have confidence in what you know to be true.

-The phrase "I believe" is to be applied to _____ line of the Creed.

-As you read the Creed think about each line. Do *you* believe each line? Can you say with the saints throughout the ages, "I believe..." Is the God who is mentioned in this creed your God? Does the Creed summarize your faith? Is this your confession?

3. ***"I believe in God..."***

-What God does the Creed lay before us? What God am I supposed to say I believe in? The answer to these questions is that the Creed lays before us the _____ God of Scripture and this is the God that I/you are to believe in.

-Christianity is Trinitarianism. Anti-Trinitarianism is _____ Christianity. The doctrine of the Trinity was not made up by the influence of Greek philosophy mixing with biblical truth. The doctrine of the Trinity was not made up later by misguided individuals. The doctrine of the Trinity is the doctrine of the Scriptures! The Scriptures proclaim One God and Three Divine Persons.

- The Father is God
- The Son is God
- The Holy Spirit is God
- The Father is not the Son nor the Holy Spirit
- The Son is not the Father nor the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit is not the Father nor the Son

-So, to apply the above three points here: 1. Do you _____ of the doctrine of the Trinity? 2. Do you acknowledge the doctrine of the Trinity to be _____? 3. Do you trust and put your _____ in the Triune God of the Scriptures?

4. ***"I believe in God, the Father..."***

-The first person to be mentioned is the Father. The Father is mentioned first due to the process of _____ not due to greater superiority. The Son is begotten of the Father and the Spirit proceeds from the Father and Son. The Father is not begotten, nor does He proceed from another. In reference to order He is mentioned first.

-God the Father-He is the Father of Christ and of believers (though in a different way). He is the Father of the Son through eternal generation. He is the Father of the saints through _____. Both understandings are here to be seen in the reference to God the Father.

-Again, applying the three elements of belief I ask: 1. Do you _____ the doctrine of God as Father of Christ and of the saints? 2. Do you acknowledge this doctrine to be _____-that God the Father is the Father of the Son (by eternal generation) and the Father of the saints (through adoption)? 3. Do you _____ this and have confidence in this? Is He your Father? If so, say with all zeal, "I believe in God the Father..."