

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 (universal) 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, Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth...”

1. “Almighty”

-We must get the order of these words right-God is first introduced as _____-then Almighty-this order is very important. He is not first “the Almighty” pushing his Trinitarian nature to the background. The very first truth about our God that we are to believe is His Triune nature.

-The word “Almighty” stresses the fact that He is God and that He is the sovereign One. One lexicon defines the Greek word **παντοκράτωρ** (Almighty) as “He who holds _____ over all things.”

-Psalm 135:6 “Whatever the Lord pleases, He does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.”

-“We need to realize that you cannot rightly understand God’s ways _____ until you see them in the light of His sovereignty.” (Packer, 45)

-“Never look on this great attribute of sovereignty without your _____. As without Him, it cannot but be matter of terror and amazement to sinners; it is He only who can render it propitious to you. As nothing is pleasing to God but in and through Christ, so nothing in God is comfortable to men, or for their eternal good, but as it comes to them through Him.” (Elisha Coles, “God’s Sovereignty”, pg. 30)

-The Creed wants us to know first the Trinitarian nature of the God of Christianity but then secondly wants us to know of the sovereignty this God. There is not a pantheon of gods but _____ God who is the Almighty.

-“The truth of God’s almightiness in creation, providence, and grace is the basis of all our _____ of answered prayer, present protection, and final salvation.” (Packer, 49)

2. *“Maker of Heaven and Earth”*

-This portion was not in the earliest forms of the Creed but was inserted later to combat the rise of gnostic thought. According to Schaff this phrase was added “in opposition to the Gnostic schools, which made a _____ between the true God and the Maker of the world-the Demiurge.” (Schaff, page 21 footnote 2)

-Creation is not evil. God created all things. Sin has corrupted creation but creation itself is not evil. This is one of the reasons why the Creed will close with belief in “the resurrection of the _____.”

-God is Creator. One cannot reject this and still be in the camp of orthodox Christianity. God made the heavens and earth. He was not aided by another nor did He create out of a “need” but chose to create simply because it _____ Him to do so.

-We must remember that God is the Creator of all things because if we do not our worship of God will _____. The Creator-creature distinction is a vital distinction that needs to be frequently on our minds.

-“The Creator-creature distinction is basic to the Bible’s view of God’s lordship in providence and grace, and indeed to all _____ thought about God and man...the Creator-creature distinction reminds us that God does not depend on us as we depend on Him, nor does He exist by our will and for our pleasure, nor may we think of His personal life as being just like ours.” (Packer, 55)

-Do you believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth?