

## 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

### “The third day He rose again from the dead...”

#### 1. In this line the Creed stresses the historicity of the resurrection

-Jesus Christ was indeed crucified. Jesus Christ did indeed die on a cross outside of Jerusalem almost 2000 years ago. All true Christians acknowledge these facts to be true. But these facts do not form the \_\_\_\_\_ of the life of Jesus Christ. Three days later Jesus Christ rose again from the dead.

-The use of “the third day” is important because it is again grounding these events in time, in \_\_\_\_\_. Three days after Christ died, He rose again (the days are calculated in the ancient way with a portion of a day still be considered a day). We do not follow cleverly devised myths (2 Peter 1:16) but we believe that God the Father sent His Son to take on flesh and be born (in time), of a real virgin, to live a real human life, to suffer the agonies of life under the sun as well as the atoning agonies of Calvary in both His flesh and soul, to die a real death like we will face, and was indeed raised from the dead. And all of this was for us and for our salvation.

-The emphasis of “the third day” is also important because it validates the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ-who said before that He would be killed and would rise again three days later-John 2:19. He knew of the death He was to suffer beforehand. He also knew that while He would die the grave would not be able to hold Him but that He would triumph over the enemy of humanity and strip the enemy of his mortal sting.

#### 2. In this line the Creed seeks to stress the importance of the resurrection

-The resurrection of Christ is of utmost importance. In fact, without the resurrection there would be no Christianity, no New Testament, and no church. The resurrection is never to be relegated to a place of minimal importance-it is of \_\_\_\_\_ importance (1 Corinthians 15:12-19)

-It is not enough simply to believe in the virgin birth, sinless life, and atoning death of Christ. To truly be a Christian one must believe in the \_\_\_\_\_ resurrection of Christ from the grave.

This is necessary for one to believe before they can be allowed into the church for membership. Reasons that the resurrection are important:

**1. The resurrection of Christ proves that He is indeed God's Son-Romans 1:4**

-What He claimed before His death was declared to be \_\_\_\_\_ by the resurrection. If someone falsely claimed to be God's Son, God would never vindicate such wicked and blasphemous claims with a miraculous resurrection. God would never crown blasphemy with life. Christ was raised from the dead and this validates His claims of sonship.

**2. The resurrection is vindication that Jesus Christ was indeed sinless-1 Timothy 3:16**

-The world courts (both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_) condemned Jesus of insurrection, treachery, and blasphemy to die a criminal's death for His crimes. The courts of this world did not only condemn Him to die but condemned Him to a death filled with shame where, they thought, they would permanently mar and stain His reputation-even after His death.

-But it is not the courts of this sin-cursed world that cast the \_\_\_\_\_ verdict. In the court of God, a different verdict was passed on Jesus of Nazareth. God, the Just Judge, did not crush Jesus because of His own insurrection, treachery, and blasphemy but for my/your insurrection, treachery, and blasphemy. Then the Just Judge of all, after the penalty for sin had been paid, looked upon the crushed and broken Jesus of Nazareth and did not pronounce guilty but passed the verdict of "not guilty" and life came flooding back into the body of Jesus.

"The phrase 'was vindicated by the Spirit' refers to the Spirit's raising Christ from the dead, which was a vindication from the wrongful verdict that had been issued against him by the sinful human court and a declaration of his righteousness."-Gregory Beale

**3. Christ rose for the justification of the elect-Romans 4:25**

-Christ's resurrection is proof that indeed in Him and Him alone I can be justified-declared righteous. If there were no resurrection I would still be in my sins. Christ had to be vindicated as righteous for me to have any \_\_\_\_\_. For if He were not declared righteous then there is no ground for my justification. Christ must be vindicated as righteous for me to be vindicated as righteous (because our righteousness is His righteousness and if He was never vindicated then we could never be declared righteous)

**4. The hopes of the elect flow from the resurrection of Christ-1 Thessalonians 4:13-17**

-All our hope is anchored in Christ and His resurrection. Without a resurrection we would be \_\_\_\_\_. But because Christ is risen, we know that those who are united to Him through faith will also rise "to be with the Lord forever." We do have a blessed hope (Titus 2:13). "Therefore, encourage one another with these words." (1 Thess. 4:18)

-“You could speak of Jesus’ rising as the most hopeful--hope-full—thing that has \_\_\_\_\_-and you would be right.” (Packer, 94)

-The resurrection of Christ and our hope of resurrection to be with Christ ought to press us on in living for things above (Colossians 3:1-4). When we take our eyes off of the resurrection of Christ and the hope that we have in Christ we will fall into worldliness as our eyes will only be focused on what is below. While we live \_\_\_\_\_ may we keep our eyes on that which is \_\_\_\_\_.