

FINDING THE WAY: CREEDS AND COUNCILS

EARLY CHURCH HISTORY

Matthew 24.4-14 (829)
Acts 21.28-31 (931)

2 Timothy 3.1-5 (996)
2 Peter 2.1-2 (1018)

1 John 4.1-6 (1023)
Jude 4,12-21 (1027)

Peculiarly Christian: A theme throughout all the writings of the New Testament is warning against coming false teachers. Not only early church history, but all of church history has borne out the truth of these warnings. The Church must continue to be vigilant against false teachers.
The early church faced heresies of many different sorts, but the most famous controversies centered around the Deity and humanity of Jesus Christ, in connection with the proper understanding of the Holy Trinity.

THE CREEDS OF THE CHURCH

1 Corinthians 15.3,4 (961)
2 Timothy 1.13-14 (995)

Philippians 2.5-11 (980)
1 John 1.1-3 (1021)

Peculiarly Christian: The Creeds of the Church attempt to summarize the Christian faith in the most precise way. They grew out of Baptismal liturgies and were adopted by church councils as evidence against heretics. Holding to a Creed shows that an individual's faith is in line with the faith of the Church throughout time and space.

SMALL CATECHISM: THE SECOND ARTICLE

[I believe] in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, 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 sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord,

Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,

That I may be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,

Even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

THE TRINITY

Deuteronomy 6.4 (151)

Matthew 11.27 (816)

Matthew 28.19 (835)

John 10.30 (897)

John 17.20-21 (903)

Galatians 4.4-6 (974)

Peculiarly Christian: The term “Trinity” expresses the unity of the one God in three Persons. The triune nature of God is not simply that God has three different hats, jobs, or names, but that there are three distinct persons, all equally God. The Trinity describes how God has ever been and every will be.