

1. The Apostles' Creed

- a. The Creed moves us, in a sense, from the Law (The Ten Commandments) to the Gospel, namely, what Christ has done on our behalf and freely given to us.
- b. Question: What is the purpose of having a 'Creed'? How do you consider such statements as 'No creed but the Bible'?
- c. There are early statements within the Scriptures themselves that can be considered 'Creedal' or perhaps come from early Christian worship:
 - i. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
 - ii. ⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

2. There are three primary creeds which Christians hold to and confess:

- a. The Nicene Creed (written in 325 and slightly changed in Constantinople in 381). This creed is formulated to answer the questions raised by the heresy of Arianism, which taught that Jesus was a created being ('there was a time when He was not').
- b. The Athanasian Creed (written around the 5th century). This creed was not written by Athanasius but reflects his teaching on the Trinity.
- c. The Apostles' Creed (written between 340 and 700). This creed arises from the Old Roman Creed and reflects the earliest Christians statements of belief. This is the standard creed confessed by Christians and the creed of Christian baptism.

3. The Three Articles of the Creed – How does God work in the world?

- a. God the Father – Creator of all.
 - i. God is the creator of all things. Moreover, He is still intimately involved in His creation. Contrast this with: Deism, Secular Evolutionary Theory, Darwinism and Social Darwinism, etc.
 - ii. God is the creator of all that exists. This has many implications, most significantly that everyone is created by God, in His image, and capable of being redeemed.
 - iii. Evil has no positive force and can only take away the good which God has created – see St. Augustine (Evil is akin to darkness which is only the absence of light) and Christopher West ("The Devil does not have his own clay and can only destroy that which God has created").
 - iv. Consider the problem of evil (also known as the trilemma or theodicy):
 1. God is good and benevolent.
 2. God is all powerful
 3. Evil exists and God's people suffer