

# The Creed

*As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household*

The First Article: Creation

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

*What does this mean?*

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

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Worldviews:

Atheistic Materialism	Pantheism	Christian Theism
No God	No god/many gods/All is one	One, Eternal, Personal God both Transcendent and Immanent
Matter is all there is	Matter is indifferent at best	Matter is good, created by God out of nothing
Life is the product of lots of time and purely random chance. Therefore, there is no real meaning or purpose to life.	Life is a cycle of trying to escape matter and join in with the Cosmic Spirit or Nirvana.	Life finds its origin and purpose in God. We were created by God, in His image, for His glory.
Morality and Ethics have no real foundation.	Karma drives morality. A Law of Cause and Effect	God defines morality. We are answerable to and accountable to Him.

**"God has made me and all creatures"**

(Genesis 1-2)

Hebrews 11:3

Psalms 139:13-14

) What does this say about the value of human life? (see also Psalm 8)

As the Creator, God has a claim on all he has made. It's all HIS. (Psalm 24:1)

) What then, is our role in the creation? (Hint from Genesis 2:15)

**"He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life."**

Psalms 145:15-18

) How should this shape our attitudes and actions re: "Stuff"

o 1 Timothy 4:4-5 \_\_\_\_\_

o 1 Peter 5:7 (see also Matthew 6:25-34) \_\_\_\_\_

o 1 Timothy 6:6-8 \_\_\_\_\_

o 1 Timothy 6:17-18 \_\_\_\_\_

o Proverbs 3:9 \_\_\_\_\_

**"He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil."**

) What then, do we make of evil and suffering in the world? Why is it here? Why does God allow it? Where is God when it happens? How do we respond?

o Genesis 3 and Romans 8:18-22ff

o (Job)

o Matthew 27:45-46

o Revelation 21:3-5

Suffering is an opportunity for

o Repentance and Trust (see Luke 13:1-5, Habakkuk 3:17-18, Psalm 46:1-3)

o Personal Growth (Romans 8:28-29, James 1:2-4, Hebrews 12:4-11)\

o Prayer and Thanksgiving (see Psalm 50:15, 1 Thess 5:16-18)

o Service to our Neighbor (Luke 10:30-37,

**"...thank and praise, serve and obey Him."**

1 Corinthians 8:6

1 Corinthians 10:31