

Gospel Essentials

**WHAT DO WE BELIEVE ?
HOW SHOULD WE LIVE ?**



NEXT TWO WEEKS

Goals for the next two weeks:

1. Early Church Creeds (tonight)
2. Heidelberg and New City Catechisms (Nov. 17th)
3. "Sound Doctrine" Our own beliefs. (Nov. 24th)



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WEEK 7: CREEDS



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LUKE 20:41-44

41 But he said to them, "How can they say that the Christ is David's son? 42 For David himself says in the Book of Psalms,

" 'The Lord said to my Lord,

"Sit at my right hand,

43 until I make your enemies your footstool." '

44 David thus calls him Lord, so how is he his son?"



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CREEDS OF THE CHURCH

HOW THE EARLY CHURCH GUARDED SOUND DOCTRINE



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QUESTIONS TO ASK

1. Is there biblical support for the statements?
2. Are these doctrines everyone must believe?
3. Do the creeds bring clarity to doctrine?
4. Are the statements for all people and times?



APOSTLE'S CREED



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APOSTLE'S CREED – 390AD

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

[remember the simplicity later on]



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APOSTLE'S CREED – 390AD

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.



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APOSTLE'S CREED – 390AD

He descended to the dead [some say “Hell”].

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.



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APOSTLE'S CREED – 390AD

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of the saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.



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NICENE CREED

TWO VERSIONS – 325AD & 381AD



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First Council of Nicaea (325)	First Council of Constantinople (381)
We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible.	We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of <i>heaven and earth</i> , and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father [the <i>only-begotten</i> ; that is, of the essence of the Father, God of God,] Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;	And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the <i>only-begotten</i> Son of God, begotten of the Father <i>before all worlds</i> (<i>æons</i>), Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
By whom all things were made [both in heaven and on earth];	by whom all things were made;
Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down and was incarnate and was made man;	who for us men, and for our salvation, came down <i>from heaven</i> , and was incarnate <i>by the Holy Ghost and of the Virgin Mary</i> , and was made man;
He suffered, and the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven;	he was <i>crucified</i> for us under <i>Pontius Pilate</i> , and suffered, and was <i>buried</i> , and the third day he rose again, <i>according to the Scriptures</i> , and <i>ascended into heaven</i> , and <i>sitteth on the right hand of the Father</i> ;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.	from thence he shall come <i>again, with glory</i> , to judge <i>the quick and the dead</i> . ;
	<i>whose kingdom shall have no end.</i>
And in the Holy Ghost.	And in the Holy Ghost, <i>the Lord and Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spake by the prophets.</i>
	<i>In one holy catholic and apostolic Church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.</i>
[But those who say: 'There was a time when he was not;' and 'He was not before he was made;' and 'He was made out of nothing,' or 'He is of another substance' or 'essence,' or 'The Son of God is created,' or 'changeable,' or 'alterable'— they are condemned by the holy catholic and apostolic Church.]	



NICENE CREED 381 VERSION

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.



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NICENE CREED – 381AD

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.



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NICENE CREED – 381AD

Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

NICENE CREED – 381AD

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;

NICENE CREED – 381AD

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the
living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

NICENE CREED – 381AD

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son
he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.



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NICENE CREED – 381AD

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

[One, Holy, Universal, Apostolic Church]

We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.



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QUESTION:

DO THE FOLLOWING IMPROVE AT ALL, OR GET WORSE?



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ATHANASIAN CREED



Gospel Essentials

ATHANASIAN CREED

Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the catholic faith. Which faith unless every one do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt he shall perish everlastingly. And the catholic faith is this: that we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Essence.

ATHANASIAN CREED

For there is one Person of the Father; another of the Son; and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one; the Glory equal, the Majesty coeternal. Such as the Father is; such is the Son; and such is the Holy Ghost. The Father uncreated; the Son uncreated; and the Holy Ghost uncreated. The Father unlimited; the Son unlimited; and the Holy Ghost unlimited.



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ATHANASIAN CREED

The Father eternal; the Son eternal; and the Holy Ghost eternal. And yet they are not three eternal; but one eternal. As also there are not three uncreated; nor three infinites, but one uncreated; and one infinite. So likewise the Father is Almighty; the Son Almighty; and the Holy Ghost Almighty. And yet they are not three Almighties; but one Almighty. So the Father is God; the Son is God; and the Holy Ghost is God. And yet they are not three Gods; but one God. So likewise the Father is Lord; the Son Lord; and the Holy Ghost Lord. And yet not three Lords; but one Lord.



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ATHANASIAN CREED

For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity; to acknowledge every Person by himself to be God and Lord; So are we forbidden by the catholic religion; to say, There are three Gods, or three Lords. The Father is made of none; neither created, nor begotten. The Son is of the Father alone; not made, nor created; but begotten. The Holy Ghost is of the Father and of the Son; neither made, nor created, nor begotten; but proceeding.

ATHANASIAN CREED

So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Ghost, not three Holy Ghosts. And in this Trinity none is before, or after another; none is greater, or less than another. But the whole three Persons are coeternal, and coequal. So that in all things, as aforesaid; the Unity in Trinity, and the Trinity in Unity, is to be worshipped. He therefore that will be saved, let him thus think of the Trinity.



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ATHANASIAN CREED

Furthermore, it is necessary to everlasting salvation; that he also believe faithfully the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the right Faith is, that we believe and confess; that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man; God, of the Substance [Essence] of the Father; begotten before the worlds; and Man, of the Substance [Essence] of his Mother, born in the world.

ATHANASIAN CREED

Perfect God; and perfect Man, of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting. Equal to the Father, as touching his Godhead; and inferior to the Father as touching his Manhood. Who although he is God and Man; yet he is not two, but one Christ. One; not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh; but by assumption of the Manhood into God. One altogether; not by confusion of Substance [Essence]; but by unity of Person.



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ATHANASIAN CREED

For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man; so God and Man is one Christ; Who suffered for our salvation; descended into hell; rose again the third day from the dead. He ascended into heaven, he sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

ATHANASIAN CREED

At whose coming all men will rise again with their bodies; And shall give account for their own works. And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting; and they that have done evil, into everlasting fire. This is the catholic faith; which except a man believe truly and firmly, he cannot be saved.



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CHALCEDONIAN CREED

CHALCEDONIAN CREED – 451AD

Following, then, the holy Fathers, we all unanimously teach that our Lord Jesus Christ is to us One and the same Son, the Self-same Perfect in Godhead, the Self-same Perfect in Manhood; truly God and truly Man; the Self-same of a rational soul and body; co-essential with the Father according to the Godhead, the Self-same co-essential with us according to the Manhood; like us in all things, sin apart;



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CHALCEDONIAN CREED – 451AD

... before the ages begotten of the Father as to the Godhead, but in the last days, the Self-same, for us and for our salvation (born) of Mary the Virgin Theotokos as to the Manhood; One and the Same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten; acknowledged in Two Natures unconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the difference of the Natures being in no way removed because of the Union, but rather the properties of each Nature being preserved, and (both) concurring into One Person and One Hypostasis;



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CHALCEDONIAN CREED – 451AD

not as though He were parted or divided into Two Persons, but One and the Self-same Son and Only-begotten God, Word, Lord, Jesus Christ; even as from the beginning the prophets have taught concerning Him, and as the Lord Jesus Christ Himself hath taught us, and as the Symbol of the Fathers hath handed down to us.



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APPLICATION



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QUESTION

When we write what we believe, what is the premise we are writing from?

example: assume a message is about sexual sin or finances, where do they tend to start?



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**WHAT DO WE BELIEVE ?
HOW SHOULD WE LIVE ?**

