

NICENE

CREEED

WEEK FIVE

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man;

Nicene Creed

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

Nicene Creed

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church we acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

A Credal Comparison

NICENE CREED

He was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered and was buried;

APOSTLE'S CREED

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

Who was Pontius Pilate?

- Roman governor of Judea from about A.D. 26 to 36 during the reign of Emperor Tiberius.
- Josephus describes him as harsh and insensitive to Jewish customs.
- The “Pilate Stone” (discovered in 1961) bears his name and title, confirming his historical existence.
- Historical accounts suggest Pilate was removed from office and sent to Rome.

Why was he named in both creeds?

Did you know . . .

Hypostatic Union

- Was Mary the “mother of God”?
- Divine and Human Natures
 - Did God die on the cross?
 - Is it a problem that Jesus as true man is sitting at the right hand of His Father and present here?

State of Humiliation and Exaltation

State of Humiliation

Jesus was born to a poor virgin in a stable,
laid in a manger,
announced to shepherds,
had no place to rest His head,
falsely accused and found guilty, and was
executed by crucifixion on a cross as a lowest of lowest.

700 Years Before Christ, Isaiah 53:2-3

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him,
nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him.

He was **despised** and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces

He was **despised**, and we held Him in low **esteem**.

despised - feel contempt for or repugnant

esteemed - admired, respected

Rejected by His own people

- John 1:11 – “He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him.”
- Luke 4:24-29 –Jesus said “*No prophet is accepted in his hometown.*”

Viewed as insignificant or ordinary

- John 7:15 – “How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?”
- Mark 6:3 – “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary...?”

Accused of blasphemy and deception

- John 10:33 – The Jewish leaders accused Him of blasphemy for claiming to be God's Son.
- Matthew 12:24 – “It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons.”

Betrayed and abandoned by friends

- Matthew 26:14–16, 47–50 – Judas betrayed Him for money.
- Matthew 26:56 – All the disciples fled when He was arrested.

Considered a failure or false prophet

Luke 23:35 –“He saved others; let Him save Himself, if He is the Christ of God, His Chosen One!”

The humility of His ministry

“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself** by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!”

(Philippians 2:6–8)

Isaiah 53:4-6

Surely He took up **our pain**
and bore **our suffering**,
yet **we** considered Him punished by God,
stricken by Him, and afflicted.
But He was pierced for **our transgressions**,
He was crushed for **our iniquities**;
the punishment that brought **us peace** was on Him,
and by His wounds **we are healed**.
We all, like sheep, have **gone astray**,
each of **us** has turned to our own way;
and the Lord has **laid on Him**
the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:7-8

He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet He did not open His mouth;
He was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so He did not open His mouth.

By oppression and judgment, He was taken away.

Yet who of His generation protested?

For He was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of My people, He was punished.

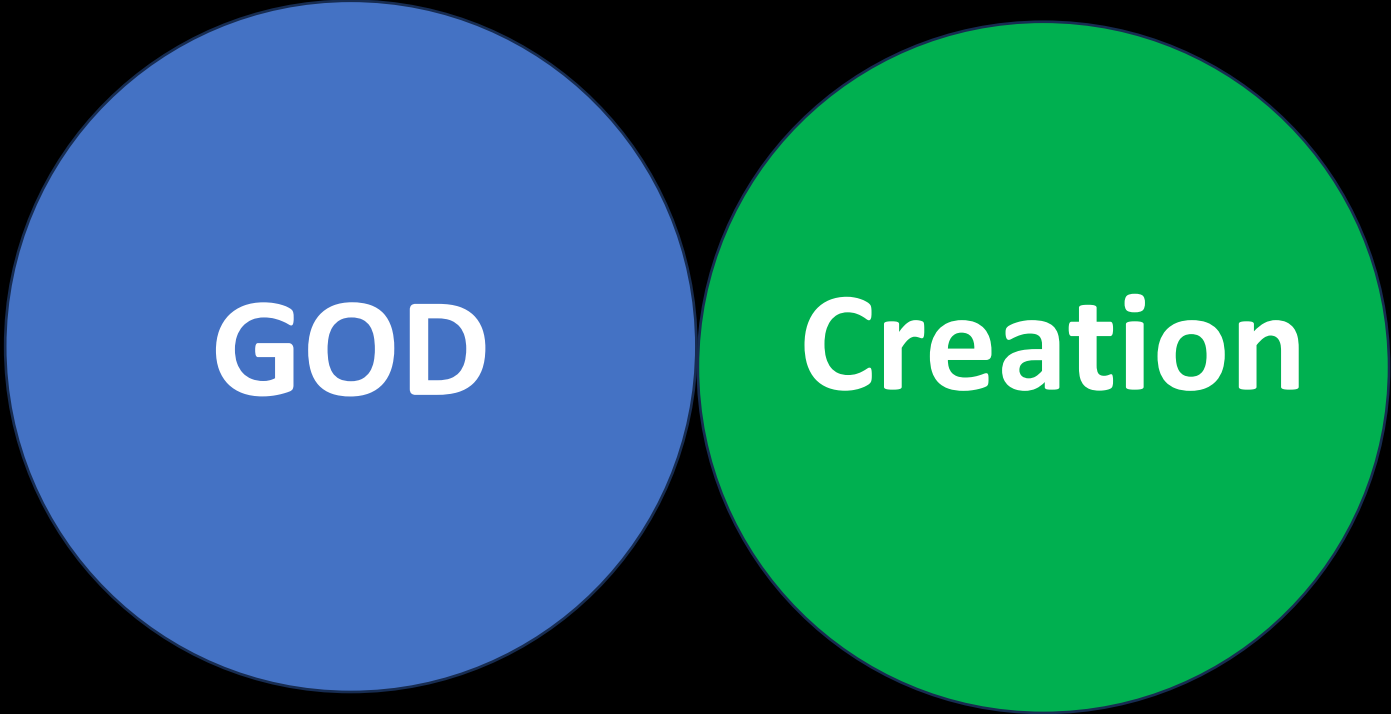
To the cross, He carried **OUR** infirmities, sicknesses,
broken bodies, fears, phobias, and our sorrows.

Our – “for us”

- “who **for us** men, and **for our** salvation came down from heaven”
- “was crucified also **for us**”

We Were Created “Special”

- “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have **dominion over** the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and **over** every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’” (Genesis 1:26)
- “Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**, and the man became a living creature.” (Genesis 2:7)



GOD

Creation

Jesus' Death – A “Eucatastrophe”

“What is mankind that You are mindful of them, human beings that You care for them?” (Psalm 8:4)

“For the sake of Your name, Lord, forgive my iniquity, though it is great.” (Psalm 25:11)

“This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” (1Timothy 2:3-4)

Two Paths

“each of us
have turned to
our own way”



**Theology
of Glory**

“by His wounds we are healed”
“I will give you rest.”



**Theology
of the
Cross**

Theology of Glory

- Self-aggrandizement
- Independence
- Seeking self-fulfillment
- Self-help books promise empowerment, personal peace, prosperity, happiness.
- The need for a redeemer vanishes.



Theology of the Cross

- In Theology of the Cross, suffering is not self-imposed, voluntary.
- It is not an intentional initiation of something unpleasant so to gain some sort of spiritual merit.
- Luther taught that our crosses are never chosen or self-imposed. It's bearing crosses that we did not choose.

Theology of the Cross

Jesus said

“If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up **his cross** daily and follow Me.”

(Luke 9:23)

“anyone who does not carry **his cross** and follow Me cannot be My disciple” (Luke 14:27)

Theology of the Cross – What does this mean?

- Should we expect to bear crosses like Jesus?

NO! Jesus said “he must take up his cross”

- We must recognize our depravity due to sin
- Trust Jesus to do that which we can't

“My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.” (1 Cor. 12:9)

Theology of the Cross



GOD

Believers