



NICENE CREED

WEEK SEVEN

What “*spiritual
things*” might
people do?

Let's Read the Creed

Recap

- Week 1 - intro to thinking Creedally
- Week 2 - The Father
- Weeks 3, 4, 5, & 6 - The Son
- Weeks 7, 8, & 9 - The Spirit
 - 7 - Who the Spirit Is
 - 8 - The Spirit and The Church
 - 9 - The Spirit and Eternity

Reading

- Today: Nothing
- Next Week: Chapter 1 of *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord¹
and giver of life,² who proceeds³ from the
Father and the Son;⁴ who with the Father
and the Son together is worshipped and
glorified;⁵ who spoke by the prophets.⁶”

Outline Today

1. Holy Spirit is Lord
2. Giver of Life
3. Proceeding
4. Father *and the Son*
5. Spiritual Worship
6. The Spirit Speaks

Holy Spirit is Lord

- In the original text written at Nicaea in 325, this is all the creed said: “And we believe in the Holy Spirit”
 - In a sense, that’s enough!
 - The Spirit is God. The Spirit is a Person of the Trinity.
- But questions persisted around the Spirit
 - “Pneumatomachians” = those who fight the Spirit
 - Council of Constantinople in 381

Holy Spirit is Lord

- The things that follow “I believe in the Holy Spirit” is not a random list of other things
 - Christians must be “spiritual”
 - The Spirit enlivens our lives and we *experience* His work
- 1 Corinthians 2:9-10

Giver of Life

- “Lord and Giver of Life” is using the same language for God the Holy Spirit that we use for The Father and Son
- John 6:63
- How does the Spirit give life?
 - By His Word (which testifies to the Son, which is the Father's)
 - In creation (breath)
 - By delivering the salvation of the Son

Proceeding

- It's hard to describe the Spirit's relation to the Father and the Son
- "Proceeding" has a "sent-ness"
 - John 15:26
 - 1 Corinthians 2:12-13
- "Proceeding" is not "begotten"
- "Proceeding" is eternal

Father *and the Son*

- In Latin “and the Son” is “filioque”
- The Eastern Church does not subscribe to this
 - They seek to emphasize the work of the Father
 - The West essentially agrees, but we want to emphasize the Son
- John 20:22
- Paul says “Spirit of God” and “Spirit of Christ”

Spiritual Worship

- The Christian Life of worship is at stake in this confession
- The third article is where the Story gets good for us!
 - Sometimes the work of the Father and Son feel distant, but the Spirit brings it to us!
- When do we worship the Spirit?

The Spirit Speaks

- The Prophets' witness was empowered by the Spirit
 - 2 Peter 1:21
 - Scripture is *God-breathed*
- When the Spirit comes upon us, we speak!
 - Confession of Faith, Confession of sin