

Joshua John / General Adult

Creeds and Confessions / Creed

Introduction

The **Bible** produces the highway that is called orthodoxy. **Creeds** are the guardrails along the highway of biblical orthodoxy. **Confessions** allow for diversity within the Christian Faith on non-essential issues. The Church councils clarified ancient **existing** truths, refining them and reforming them into our doctrine and practice today

The Council of Nicaea

The Nicene Creed was the product of the council of **Nicaea**. Although similar, the Nicene Creed is more **definitive** and **explicit** than the Apostles Creed in the statement of the **divinity** of Christ and the Holy Spirit. It provided the needed clarification to combat the current heresy of **Arianism** at that time, and into the future.

The Nicene Creed

I 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 the 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 for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; 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 on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Conclusion - Why it Matters

The Creeds are a useful liturgical and discipleship tool to help us do what the Scriptures admonish us to do. The entire purpose of the creeds is to make us one in the faith. Since they provide those guardrails of orthodoxy, they will help us to see that everyone within those bounds is our brother and sister in Christ.