

Joshua John / General Adult

Creeds and Confessions / Creed

Introduction - Creeds

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.

Early Evidences

One of the oldest Creeds is not even Messianic in nature but Jewish - The **Shema** in Deut. 6:4-9 . This is the foundation of belief incorporated into Jewish life, it was their defining **doctrine** of the worship.

The NT contains brief confessional fragments of the budding **church**. The simplest and likely earliest confessional statement is “**Jesus is Lord**”.

Combating Heresy

The primary reason that formalized Creeds were developed was a **response** to heretical teachings. Many of the most notorious heretics and their heresies began with seemingly very well meaning **pastors**. This is why the Creeds are very useful and important guardrails. They

protect us from going off the road into heresy.

The Apostles Creed

The Apostles' Creed is a statement of Christian faith.

I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord. Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell, the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead; I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Reformation Remnants

God the Father & Creation

- Father Almighty — Matthew 6:9; 1 Corinthians 8:6
- Maker of heaven and earth — Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11

Jesus Christ's Person & Work

- Only Son, our Lord — John 1:14, 18; Romans 8:32
- Conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary — Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 1:26–38

- Suffered under Pontius Pilate — Matthew 27:2; Mark 15:1
- Crucified, dead, and buried — 1 Corinthians 15:3–4; Romans 6:9
- Descended into hell — 1 Peter 3:18–20; Ephesians 4:8–10
- Rose on the third day — 1 Corinthians 15:4; Romans 1:4
- Ascended into heaven — Acts 1:9–11; Ephesians 4:10
- Sits at God’s right hand — Hebrews 1:3; 10:12
- Will judge the living and the dead — Matthew 25:31–46; 2 Timothy 4:1

The Holy Spirit & the Church

- Holy Spirit — Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 12:4–6
- Holy Catholic Church — Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22–23
- Communion of saints — 1 Corinthians 12:12–27; Hebrews 10:24–25
- Forgiveness of sins — Matthew 26:28; Colossians 1:14
- Resurrection of the body — 1 Corinthians 15:42–44; Romans 8:11
- Life everlasting — John 3:16; 1 John 2:25

Evangelical denominations rarely employ the use of creeds or confessions in their liturgy (worship). They might feel that they are betraying their protestant roots or possibly using them would be too

Roman Catholic. During the reformation there were five themes that permeated the reformers that emerged as characteristic features of the movement. They are referred to as the “**Five Solas**”, “Sola” being latin for “**alone**”.

Conclusion

The Apostle’s creed **systematizes** truths scattered throughout the New Testament rather than presenting new or novel doctrine, making it a useful summary of biblical and apostolic teaching. The Apostle’s Creed **stands** upon Scripture Alone!