

CHRISTIAN ESSENTIALS

KEY TERMS

Confession

Like creeds, confessions are an active acknowledgement of the church's faith and teachings. "Confessions of faith" often include both creedal declarations and statements summarizing the distinctive teachings of a particular denomination or group of believers.

Creed

Means I believe. A simple summary of beliefs. Creeds are easy to memorize and flexible to teach.

Doctrine

A belief that a group holds as true. Christian doctrines organize and explain the beliefs the church learns from the Bible.

Heresy

A teaching that contradicts another teaching that has been accepted as the norm; opposite of orthodoxy.

Orthodoxy

the opposite of heresy. Irenaeus (AD130-200) used the word orthodox to characterize his own teachings, with which most other Church Fathers agreed, and the word heresy to define those of his adversaries. When orthodox is capitalized (as in Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox) it refers to the church bodies of Eastern Europe and the Middle East that divided from the churches aligned with Rome in the Great Schism of AD 1054.

1. **The Standard**

- a. General revelation (nature)
 - ~Psalm 19:1-6
 - ~Romans 1:19-20
- b. Special revelation (Scripture)
 - ~2 Peter 1:21
 - ~2 Timothy 3:16

2. **Heresy and Orthodoxy**

- a. Heresy: belief or opinion contrary to religious doctrine, (especially Christian.); opinion profoundly at odds with what is generally accepted.
- b. Orthodoxy: authorized or generally accepted theory, doctrine, or practice.

3. **Four Universal Creeds**

- a. Apostles Creed
- b. Nicene Creed
- c. Athanasian Creed
- d. Definition of Chalcedon (Chalcedon Creed)

4. **12 Essential Doctrines**

- a. God's unity
 - Deuteronomy 6:4
 - 1 Corinthians 8:5-6
- b. The Trinity
 - 2 Thessalonians 1:2
 - John 1:1
 - Matthew 28:19
- c. Human depravity
 - Romans 3:9-20
 - John 3:3
- d. The virgin birth
 - Luke 1:34-35
 - Matthew 1:18
- e. The sinlessness of Christ
 - Hebrews 4:15
 - 1 Peter 2:22
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21
- f. Christ's deity
 - John 1:18
 - Titus 2:13
 - John 20:28-29
- g. Christ's humanity (Doctrine of Incarnation)
 - John 1:14
 - Hebrews 1:1-8
 - Galatians 4:4-5
 - 1 John 4:2-3
- h. God's grace
 - Romans 5:10
 - Titus 3:5
- i. Faith
 - Ephesians 2:8-9
- j. Christ's atoning death
 - Romans 3:25-26
- k. Jesus' bodily resurrection
 - 1 Corinthians 15:1-6
- l. Christ's second coming
 - Acts 1:11
 - Revelation 1:7