

**THE APOSTLES' CREED (2<sup>ND</sup> CENTURY AD)**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. The third day He rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic (*universal*) Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

**CREED** = Latin "creedo" = "I believe"

- A creed is a common confession of belief
- A creed is a historic statement of Christian faith
- A creed uses language taken directly from the Scriptures
- A creed's purpose is to give a brief, clear summary of the Christian faith
- For many centuries, the Church has used the Apostles' Creed as a basic guide to instruct believers in the faith

**BELIEVE** = Greek "pisteuo" = means, "to believe into" something or someone

1. Faith always has an object
2. The object of faith is what matters most

**WHY CREEDS MATTER**

*"In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes."* JUDGES 21:25

*"Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you."* 1 TIMOTHY 4:16

*"For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes."*

ROMANS 1:16

1. **Christianity is a \_\_\_\_\_ faith = it always has been; true/authentic Christian faith is based on doctrines from the Bible**
  - What we believe matters: we are what we believe
  - There are doctrines we are required to believe
2. **Creeds act as \_\_\_\_\_ to prevent us from falling down the slippery slope of heresy**
  - Truth is not up for grabs
  - They correct errors
3. **Creeds \_\_\_\_\_ us with our past and draw on the wisdom of those who have gone before us**
  - Tradition is the living faith of the dead
  - While the context of life changes, the content of our faith remains the same
4. **Creeds \_\_\_\_\_ Christians around common beliefs who worship and practice their faith differently**
  - They can bridge denominational divides
  - They boldly confess the powerful statements of Christian belief
5. **Creeds teach us how to \_\_\_\_\_ our faith to others**
  - They provide a common language for all believers
  - That language gives us words to share what we believe
6. **Creeds \_\_\_\_\_ the essentials of our faith**
  - They give us the "big picture" of what Christians believe
  - We believe more than what the Creeds say, but we don't believe less than what they say