

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. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Beginning with Paul's missionary trips around the Mediterranean, Christianity spread across western Asia and Europe. Persecution arose. Many folks were illiterate. Bible texts were few and far between. In this environment, short/simple creeds were something folks could hang onto. They provided precision and unity for Christian doctrine and helped deflect non-Biblical ideas.

• credo (L) = I believe

• symbolum (L) = mark or token

• homologia (Gk) = confession

#### **APOSTLE'S CREED**

- not written by the original apostles
- summaries of crucial "Christian" doctrines
- one of <u>numerous</u> creeds crafted (usually) in response to "heresy"
- probably used as **baptismal** confession
- referenced in 190 A.D.; therefore, formulated earlier

1. Credo in Deum Patrem omnipotentem, <u>Creatorem caeli</u> et terrae,

I believe in God the Father almighty, <u>Maker of heaven and earth</u>,

2. et in Iesum Christum, Filium Eius unicum, Dominum nostrum,

and in <u>Jesus Christ</u>, His only Son, our Lord,

3. qui <u>conceptus est</u> de Spiritu Sancto, natus ex Maria Virgine,

who was <u>conceived</u> of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary,

4. <u>passus</u> sub Pontio Pilato, crucifixus, <u>mortuus</u>, et sepultus,

who <u>suffered</u> under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, <u>died</u>, and was buried,

5.	descendit a	<u>ad</u>	<u>inferos,</u>	tertia	die	resurrexit	a
mortuis,							

descended into hell, rose again from the dead on the third day,

6. ascendit ad caelos, sedet ad dexteram <u>Dei</u>Patris <u>omnipotentis</u>,

ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of <u>God</u>the Father <u>almighty</u>,

7. inde venturus est iudicare vivos et mortuos.

who will come again to judge the living and the dead.

8. Credo in Spiritum Sanctum,

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

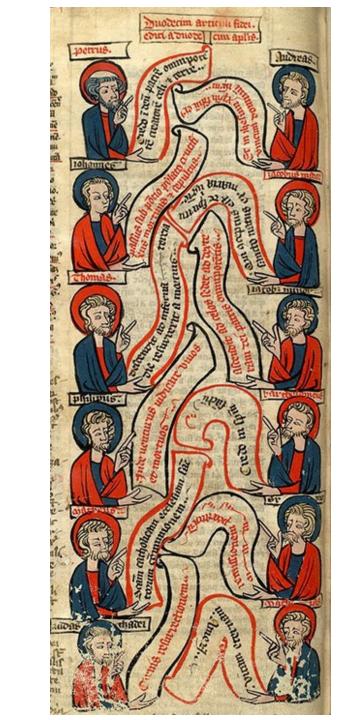
9. sanctam Ecclesiam <u>catholicam</u>, <u>sanctorum communionem</u>,

the holy <u>catholic</u> Church, <u>the communion of saints</u>,

10. Remissionem peccatorum, The forgiveness of sins

11. Carnis resurrectionem, The resurrection of the body,

12, vitam aeternam. Amen. And the life everlasting. Amen.



110 A.D.... Ignatius (early church leader) wrote a letter to the church in Smyrna (Turkey) in which he referred to the Christian church as "catholic" i.e. larger than their region or culture. Oldest known reference using this Greek word katholikos to describe the grown Christian community.

### <u>catholic</u> < *kata* + *holos* = wide, diversified, entire, universal

- Prior to the great <u>schism</u> (1054) the Christian church was often referred to by this adjective.
- Following this break in fellowship, the Pope (Rome) retained the description of <u>catholic</u> (emphasizing <u>geography</u>), while the Patriarch (Constantinople) preferred the description of <u>orthodox</u> (emphasizing <u>doctrine</u>)

Under no pretext can the word catholic in the creed refer to the doctrines developed in medieval times and inculcated into the Roman Catholic church of today. The credo use has nothing to do with doctrine but refers to the scope and diversity of the Christian community.

#### I BELIEVE:

CHURCH... Entire world divided into two groups... saved by Christ vs. unsaved

HOLY... distinct and different from the world

**CATHOLIC...** This body of Christ is <u>all</u> people who put their <u>trust</u> and <u>hope</u> in Christ, who are <u>called</u> by God unto himself

#### Implications of a catholic (world view) church:

1. Attitude of **HUMILITY** 

2. Desire for **UNITY** 

3. Participation in "MISSIONS"

#### THEOLOGY summarized in the Apostle's Creed

#### **Creation** of the universe by a **Creator**

# Incarnation of God within the human family (achieved by) divine conception/human virgin

#### **Atonement** of Christ

### **Body** of Christ

### Enabling <u>Presence</u> of God within/among humanity (Holy Spirit)

### Christian <u>fellowship</u> and <u>cooperation</u> [communion] transcending human barriers

#### God's **LOVE**... forgiveness of sins

#### God's **POWER**... New bodies (future)

## God's <u>PLEASURE</u>... people <u>alive</u> with <u>him</u> for eternity

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. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.