

A circular stained glass window with a dark background and colorful, abstract patterns in shades of blue, red, and gold. The word "BELIEVE" is written across the center in a white, serif font. The letter "I" is significantly larger than the other letters and is positioned in the center of the word. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the glass and the contrast of the white text.

BELIEVE

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 numerous 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, Creatorem caeli
et terrae,

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

3. qui conceptus est de Spiritu
Sancto, natus ex Maria Virgine,

4. passus sub Pontio Pilato,
crucifixus, mortuus, et sepultus,

I believe in God the Father
almighty, Maker of heaven and
earth,

and in Jesus Christ, His only
Son, our Lord,

who was conceived of the Holy
Spirit and born of the Virgin
Mary,

who suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, died, and
was buried,

5. descendit ad inferos, tertia die resurrexit a mortuis,

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

6. ascendit ad caelos, sedet ad dexteram Dei Patris omnipotentis,

ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty,

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 catholicam, sanctorum communionem,

the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,

10. Remissionem peccatorum,

The forgiveness of sins

11. Carnis resurrectionem,

The resurrection of the body,

12, vitam aeternam. Amen.

And the life everlasting. Amen.

Duodecim articuli fidei.
editi a duode
cum aplis.

Petrus.



Iohannes



Thomas.



Matheus.



Matheus.



Matheus.



Andreas.



Iacobus



Matheus.



Matheus.



Matheus.



Matheus.



Credo in deum patrem omnipotentem
creatorem celi et terre...

...in unum dominum
Iesum Christum filium
patris...

...qui ex patre
et spiritu sancto
procedit...

...qui seorsum
sedet ad dexteram
patris...

...qui cum patre
et spiritu sancto
conspicitur et
glorificatur...

...qui deus
et eternus
patris...

Marginal notes on the left side of the page.

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.

catholic < *kata* + *holos* = **wide, diversified,
entire, universal**

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

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 all people who put their trust and hope in Christ, who are called 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 **Presence** of God
within/among humanity (Holy Spirit)

Christian **fellowship** and **cooperation**
[communion] transcending human barriers

God's LOVE... forgiveness of sins

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

God's **PLEASURE**... people alive
with him for eternity

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