

Aggie Catholic Apologetics Team

The Creeds

February 2nd, 2015

The Creeds (Professions of Faith) summarize the essential elements of our faith as Christians

*“Whoever says “I believe” says “I pledge myself to what we believe.” Communion in faith needs a **common language of faith**, normative for all and uniting all in the same confession of faith.”*
– CCC 185

Two most important Creeds:

- **Apostle’s Creed**
- **Nicene Creed (Niceno-Constantinopolitan)**

Features of the Creeds:

- Trinitarian structure: “the three chapters of our baptismal seal” CCC 190
 - First section: God the Father, the All-Powerful Creator
 - Second section: Jesus Christ the Son, in His Incarnation, Passion, Resurrection, and Glorification
 - Third section: The Holy Spirit, the Church, our life and hope
- Each section expresses key beliefs about each Person of the Trinity and their relationship with us in the Church
- The Creeds tell us who God is, who Christ is, how we are saved, and what our life in Christ means now and to come

I. Who is God?

<i>Apostle’s</i>	<i>Niceno-Constantinopolitan</i>
I believe in God , the Father Almighty , Creator of heaven and earth	I believe in one God , the Father almighty , maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible .

II. Who is Jesus Christ?

and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord :	I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God , born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
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<p>Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary;</p> <p>suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.</p> <p>He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead;</p> <p>He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;</p> <p>from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.</p>	<p>through him all things were made.</p> <p>For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.</p> <p>For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried,</p> <p>and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.</p> <p>He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.</p> <p>He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.</p>
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III. Who is the Holy Spirit and how is He working in our lives?

<p>I believe in the Holy Spirit,</p> <p>the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.</p>	<p>I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.</p> <p>I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.</p> <p>I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.</p>
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References and further reading:

- Holy Bible, RSV Catholic Edition
- CCC 185-197, all of Section Two (The Profession of Faith)
- NewAdvent.org: "Apostles' Creed", "Nicene Creed"
- *Early Christian Fathers*, ed. Cyril C. Richardson, Touchstone 1996
- St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica* (see especially II-II 1:6-10)