

Introduction (Part 1) - Creeds: Ancient, Biblical, Indispensable

Introduction

Confirmation Class

An Important Name

A New Name

Go therefore and make disciples of
all nations, baptizing them in the
name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit,

Matthew 28:19

ESV

And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"

Acts 4:7

ESV

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:12

ESV

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38

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because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9

ESV

Overview

Overview of the Study

1. **Introduction (Part 1) - Creeds: Ancient, Biblical, Indispensable**
2. Introduction (Part 2) - What is the Nicene Creed?
3. The Father: "I believe in one God, the Father..."
4. The Son (Part 1): "One Lord Jesus Christ"
5. The Son (Part 2): "Who For Us Men and For Our Salvation"
6. The Holy Spirit (Part 1): "The Lord and Giver of Life"
7. The Holy Spirit (Part 2): "One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church"
8. Conclusion: Do we really still need the Nicene Creed today?

Overview

I. Creeds are Ancient

II. Creeds are Biblical

III. Creeds are Indispensable

Ancient

Introduction

Four Ecumenical Creeds

The Apostles' Creed (1st/2nd cent.)

The Nicene Creed (325/381 ca.)

The Chalcedonian Definition
(431/451 ca.)

The Athanasian Creed (early 6th
cent.)

What are Creeds and Confessions?

Terminology - Creeds

Latin (*credo*): meaning, "I believe."

Greek (*symbolon*): meaning,
"symbol."

Terminology - Confessions

Latin (*confessio*): "acknowledgement"

Greek (*homologeō*): "I confess"

- "same" (*homo*) + "say" (*logeō*)
- "to say the same thing"

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9

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For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Romans 10:10

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If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

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No one who denies the Son has
the Father. Whoever confesses the
Son has the Father also.

1 John 2:23

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Creeds vs. Confessions: What's the Difference?

Baptism & Worship

Why did creeds come about?

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1. Baptism
2. Worship

Baptism

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Why did creeds come about?

1. Baptism
2. Worship

Worship

let us draw near...Let us hold fast
the confession of our hope...And
let us consider how to stir up one
another to love and good works,
not neglecting to meet together..."

Hebrews 10:22–25

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Biblical

Introduction

The Stone-Campbell ("Restoration")
Movement

Barton W. Stone (1772-1844)

Thomas Campbell (1763-1845)

5 Movements Against Confessions

1. Skepticism
2. War
3. Enlightenment Thinking
4. Mysticism & Pietism
5. Individualism

Deuteronomy 6:4-6

The *Shema* is “the primal creed” that stands “behind and beneath all the primitive creeds of the apostolic and subapostolic era.” - Jaroslav Pelikan (1923-2006)

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

Deuteronomy 6:4–6

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NT Confessions

yet for us there is *one God, the*
Father, from whom are all things and
for whom we exist, and one Lord,
Jesus Christ, through whom are all
things and through whom we exist.

1 Corinthians 8:6

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For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 15:3–4

ESV

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:5–11

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Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

1 Timothy 3:16

ESV

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God and the
fellowship of the Holy Spirit be
with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14

ESV

NT Trustworthy Sayings

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

1 Timothy 1:15

ESV

Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.'
For I came not to call the
righteous, but sinners."

Matthew 9:13

ESV

And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Mark 2:17

ESV

I have not come to call the
righteous but sinner to
repentance."

Luke 5:32

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I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

John 12:46–47

ESV

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

1 Timothy 1:15

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“The Faith” (Jude 3)

Conclusion

The Bible...

- reveals confessional language.
- commands confessional practices.
- is the basis for the ancient confessions.

1. Confession of one God, the Father.
2. Confession of Jesus Christ, linked to the Father (i.e. "Lord" or "Son").
3. Summary of Christ's earthly ministry (i.e. life, death, resurrection).
4. Affirmation of Holy Spirit, linked with Father and Son.

Given what we see in the Bible (OT & NT), it is not surprising that we find a “creedal impulse” in the first centuries of the church.

Indispensable

Belief in What vs. Belief in Whom

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

ESV

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

Matthew 16:13

ESV

And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Matthew 16:14

ESV

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Matthew 16:15

ESV

Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Matthew 16:16

ESV

And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 16:17

ESV

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:18

ESV