



5. THE CREED

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

And 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 into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Doctrine is a strange word for American Christians. Yet, doctrine is nothing other than the answer to Jesus' questions to His disciples in **Matthew 16:13, 15**: "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" "Who do you say I am?"

What does the word *Creed* (Latin: *Credo*) mean? _____

The Apostle's Creed (so named because it teaches the faith of the apostles) confesses the special activity of each Person of the Trinity. Skim through each of the three articles (especially the opening line of each explanation). What seems to be the *special activity* of each Person?

1. God the Father: _____
2. God the Son: _____
3. God the Holy Spirit: _____

THE FIRST ARTICLE

1. What does it mean that God has created “heaven and earth” (See **Exodus 20:11; Genesis 1**)
2. What does God create in **Ephesians 2:8**? “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.” Many people don’t want to believe God created all things. If you take away God’s creative power, what also would be taken away?
3. **Discuss:** To say God created everything means also that God created us. Why does the First Article stress God as Creator and humans as creatures? Why is this relationship significant?

Read Genesis 1:26-28. God originally created mankind “in His own image.” This means that Adam and Eve had true knowledge of God and possessed perfect righteousness and holiness.

Now read Genesis 2:15-19 and 3:1-12. Man thought God was holding back from him, and that he should/could take matters into his own hand. In doing so, man lost the image of God, and fell into sin.

4. What was the result of the fall into sin? How “far” was the fall?

Romans 3:10-12: As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.”

Ephesians 2:1: you...were dead in trespasses and sins.

5. The sin which every person born in the image of Adam has from their conception is called:
_____.

6. The result of this is _____

Romans 5:12: Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and **death** through sin, and thus **death** spread to all men, because all sinned...”

7. What did God do for His creation after this?

Genesis 3:15: I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel.

Galatians 4:4-5: But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons.

Hebrews 1:3: He sustains all things by his powerful word.

Providence is God's continued activity in preserving ("providing for") His creatures. What moves God to provide for His creatures? Is it because something they do/some good in them? Or is it purely by God's mercy?

THE SECOND ARTICLE

8. **Discuss:** Recall from the last lesson, that Jesus is both true God and true Man. Throughout history, some people have denied Jesus' divinity; others have denied His humanity. What are the consequences for us if Jesus is not both True God and True Man?

9. When we call Jesus Lord, we mean that He is our _____.

10. To "Redeem" means to..._____.

11. With what has Jesus redeemed you?

1 Peter 1:18-19: You were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

12. What does Jesus' suffering and death mean for you and me?

1 Peter 2:23-24: [Christ] committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

John 19:30: [Christ] said, "It is finished!"

13. Define *Justification*: _____

CHRIST'S HUMILIATION

Jesus...was conceived...born...suffered...was crucified, died, and was buried...

CHRIST'S EXALTATION

Jesus...descended into hell...rose again from the dead...ascended into heaven...and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty...

14. If Jesus' suffering was complete when He died, why did He descend into hell?

1 Peter 3:18-20: For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient

In a similar way, if Jesus' work of redemption was completed on the cross, we might wonder why Jesus needed to rise from the dead "on the third day." What **five things** does His resurrection prove?

1. **Romans 1:4:** "[He was] declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. _____
2. **John 2:19:** Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

3. **Romans 4:25:** [Christ] was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification. _____
4. **John 14:19:** "Because I live, you will live also." _____
5. **Romans 6:4:** Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

15. Why did Jesus ascend to heaven?

Romans 8:34: It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. _____

Ephesians 1:20-22: when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church. _____

16. Does Jesus leave us alone? Why was it good that Jesus ascended?

Matthew 28:20: “I, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

John 16:7-8: “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”

17. Because of Christ’s work of redemption, what should be our reaction to Judgement Day?

Matthew 24:44: “Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Luke 21:28: “Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”

THE THIRD ARTICLE

18. Look back at the 1st and 2nd articles of the Creed and their explanations. Underline all the actions or verbs that God does. Circle all of the actions or verbs that we do.

One of the actions that we do in the creed is *believe* (“I believe...”). But now look at the 3rd article and its explanation and underline what we do and circle what God does. Can we even take credit for *believing*?

19. Why did the Holy Spirit need to create saving faith in us? Why couldn’t we believe on our own?

Ephesians 2:1: And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.

20. Read the following verses and note the work of the Holy Spirit in each:

1 Corinthians 6:11: “you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.” – **Sanctification** (making holy)

1 Corinthians 12:3: “no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.” – **Conversion**

Philippians 2:13: “for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.” – Enabling us to live a new life in Him (**Good works**)

Philippians 1:6: “He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” – **Preservation**

21. According to the passage below, how has the Holy Spirit brought you to faith? By the... _____

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14: “Because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel...”

22. Through what means does the Holy Spirit bring you the Gospel (the good news of your forgiveness) today?

John 17:17: Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth”

1 Peter 3:21: “baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the body but the guarantee of a good conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

Matthew 26:26-28: “Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.”Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

What might be the danger in compromising, minimizing or “agreeing to disagree” on some of the Bible’s teachings?

MEMORIZE: The books of the Bible (the order)

MEMORIZE: The Apostle’s Creed & the Explanations to the Apostle’s Creed