

Wednesday Night Study – October 1, 2025

Questions we must give answer to:

- Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?
- So you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

The Apostles' 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 and born of the Virgin Mary, who suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell, he rose again from the dead on the third day, ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, who will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection of the body. Amen.

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

The concept of "God the Creator of heaven and earth" is central to several religious traditions, most notably in the Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam). In these faiths, God is understood as the supreme, all-powerful being who brought the universe and everything within it into existence through divine will and power.

Key Aspects of This Concept:

- **Divine Power:**

God's act of creation demonstrates omnipotence, showcasing a power that is limitless and sovereign over all things.

- **Wisdom and Purpose:**

The creation is not haphazard but was established with wisdom and a divine purpose, such as forming the earth to be inhabited.

- **Sustaining Role:**

God is not only the originator of the universe but also its ongoing sustainer, maintaining its existence and order.

- **Biblical Foundation:**

The concept is explicitly stated in texts like Genesis 1:1, which begins with "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth". This theme is echoed in other biblical books, including Psalms, Isaiah, and the New Testament.

- **Christ as Agent (Christianity):**

In Christian theology, Jesus is also seen as the agent through whom God created everything, fulfilling the purpose of creation.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord . . .

The phrase "and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord" from the Apostles' Creed asserts that Jesus is the Christ (the promised Messiah), the only Son of God (unique in His divine nature and relationship to the Father), and Our Lord (the ultimate authority and ruler of our lives and the entire world). This declaration signifies a personal surrender and allegiance to Jesus, recognizing His divine authority, redemptive work, and role in sustaining all of creation.

Here is a breakdown of each part of the phrase:

- **Jesus Christ:**

This is the formal naming of the central figure of Christian faith. "Jesus" is the personal name, and "Christ" is the Greek word for "Messiah," signifying that Jesus is the anointed and promised Savior-King sent by God.

- **His Only Son:**

This phrase highlights Jesus' unique relationship to God the Father. It signifies His divinity and equality in power and glory with the Father, not just a special human relationship. It emphasizes that Jesus is God's unique Son, the Word made flesh.

- **Our Lord:**

This title signifies that Jesus possesses supreme authority over all things, including all beings, powers, and authorities, and over our own lives. It is a declaration of total surrender and allegiance, acknowledging that our lives belong to Him.

- **What it Means for Us:**

- **Comfort:** His Lordship offers comfort, as He holds authority over all history and life itself.
- **Challenge:** His Lordship is also a challenge, calling us to a life of service, love, and full allegiance to His way.
- **Salvation:** Believing in Jesus' Lordship and His resurrection leads to salvation, which is about trusting in who He is and what He has done.

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, who suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried.

The person who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried is Jesus Christ, as described in the Apostles' Creed and Nicene Creed. These well-known statements of Christian belief outline the foundational narrative of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection.

Key Points

- **Conceived by the Holy Spirit:**

This refers to the miraculous, virginal conception of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit, as told in the Gospel of Luke.

- **Born of the Virgin Mary:**

This emphasizes Mary's perpetual virginity and the unique nature of Jesus's birth as the Son of God.

- **Suffered under Pontius Pilate:**

This identifies the Roman governor under whom Jesus was condemned and crucified.

- **Crucified, died, and was buried:**

These are the events leading to Jesus's physical death and his burial, central to Christian theology.

Where these words appear

- **The Apostles' Creed:**

This is a foundational statement of faith for many Christians, beginning with "I believe in God..." and including the phrase "He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried".

- **The Nicene Creed:**

Also a widely recognized statement of Christian belief, it includes a similar description of Jesus's incarnation and suffering.

He descended into hell, he rose again from the dead on the third day, ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, who will come again to judge the living and the dead.

The phrase describes the key events in the life of Jesus Christ as articulated in the Apostles' Creed. This ancient Christian statement of faith outlines beliefs in God the Father, the virgin birth, suffering, death, resurrection, ascension, and the final judgment.

Breakdown of the Phrase:

- **"He descended into hell":** This refers to Jesus's descent into the realm of the dead after his crucifixion (also see 1 Peter 3:18-20).
- **"He rose again from the dead on the third day":** This signifies his resurrection from death, a central event in Scripture and our belief.
- **"Ascended into heaven":** This marks his return to heaven after his resurrection.
- **"And is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty":** This signifies his exaltation and authority in the presence of God.
- **"Who will come again to judge the living and the dead":** This refers to the future return of Christ to judge all humanity.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection of the body. Amen.

This phrase from the Apostles' Creed expresses core Christian beliefs: belief in the Holy Spirit as God, the universal Christian Church ("catholic" means universal, not specifically Roman Catholic), the communion of saints as a fellowship across time,

forgiveness of sins through Christ, and the future resurrection of the body for eternal life with God. The word "Amen" signifies agreement and finality, meaning "so be it" or "truly".

Here is a breakdown of each phrase:

- **"I believe in the Holy Spirit":**

This affirms our belief in the Holy Spirit as God, the third person of the Trinity, who enables all believers to have new life and faith.

- **"the holy catholic Church":**

This refers to the worldwide, universal fellowship of all believers who are united in Christ and dedicated to God. It is not a belief in the Roman Catholic institution.

- **"the communion of saints":**

As Christians, we are united with one another in Christ, not only across space but also across time, with those who have died in faith before us, forming a spiritual fellowship with God and all believers in heaven.

- **"the forgiveness of sins":**

As followers of Jesus Christ, believe their sins are forgiven through Christ's sacrifice on the cross, which is received through the Church and leads to receiving God's grace.

- **"the resurrection of the body":**

We believe that just as Christ rose from the dead, believers will also be resurrected to be united with Him in eternal life.

- **"Amen":**

This concluding word affirms the truth of the entire statement.