

“IXTHUS”

John 3:16

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INTRODUCTION

- A. In Matthew 13:13-16, Jesus asked his disciples who people thought he was.
- B. The Apostle’s Creed helps answer this all important question.
- C. The Creed is Trinitarian.
 - 1. It’s divided into three sections—Father, Son, Holy Spirit.
 - 2. Of the 110 words in the Creed, 70 relate to Jesus.
 - 3. This section about Jesus makes four statements about him.
 - a. I believe in Jesus.
 - b. I believe he is the Christ.
 - c. I believe he is God’s only Son.
 - d. I believe he is Lord.
- D. The “fish” is one of the oldest Christian symbols.
 - 1. The Greek word for fish is “ixthus”.
 - 2. It has been used as an acrostic for four of the words found in this phrase of the Creed.
 - a. “I”—first letter of “Jesus”.
 - b. “X”—first letter of “Christ.”
 - c. “TH”—first letter of “God”.
 - d. “U”—first letter of “Son”.
 - e. “S”—first letter of “Savior”.
 - 3. So, “ixthus” is shorthand for “Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Our Savior”.
 - 3. This phrase corresponds to the four words of the Creed relating to Jesus. Lets examine them individually.

I. FIRST, HE IS THE SAVIOR—“JESUS”.

- A. The name “Jesus” means “God Saves”.
 - 1. It was a common name in Jesus’ day.
 - 2. At least 10 people named “Jesus” have been found in Judea in the first century.
 - 3. Five of those ten were High Priests.
- B. It’s the Greek version of the Hebrew name “Joshua”.
- C. Jesus received this name from an angel—Matthew 1:21.

II. SECOND, HE IS THE CHRIST—“CHRIST”.

- A. This is the Greek version of the Hebrew word meaning “the anointed one.”
- B. In the Old Testament, prophets, priests, and kings were anointed when they began their service.
- C. Jesus, therefore, by receiving this name was called by God for service.

III. THIRD, HE IS GOD’S ONLY SON—“ONLY SON”.

- A. The KJV of John 3:16 says, “only begotten son”.
- B. The NIV says, “one and only”.
- C. This indicates there can never be another.
- D. This relationship between Father and Son is the basis of the Trinity—John 10:30.

IV. FOURTH, HE IS LORD—“LORD”.

- A. The Greek word for “Lord” means “absolute ruler”.
- B. When we receive Jesus as Savior we also receive him as Lord-Rom. 10:9.