



## The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed, the most ancient and universally received of the creeds, succinctly summarizes the basic Bible doctrines. It begins with these simple words, "I believe." The English word creed is derived from the Latin word *credo*, which also means "I believe." The earliest form of the Apostles' Creed appeared around the second century, and it seems to have assumed its final form in the eighth century. Even though there is no historical justification for this belief, the creed is traditionally attributed to the apostles.

The early church used the Apostles' Creed to teach and disciple new believers in the faith. When someone became a Christian, that person was expected to be baptized as a public sign of the believer's death to the world, and born to new life in Jesus Christ. Before new believers could be baptized, they had to undergo an extended period of instruction in Christian beliefs that included memorizing the Apostles' Creed.

The Apostles' Creed is not a substitute for reading the Bible; however, it complements and summarizes the Bible's major themes in a beautiful and timeless fashion. It will help you better understand the doctrines of the Bible and develop a closer walk with God.

Here, then, is the Apostles' Creed:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come 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, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.