

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

“What, then, is necessary for a Christian to believe?” asks the Heidelberg Catechism. “All that is promised us in the gospel, which the articles of our catholic, undoubted Christian faith teach us in summary,” is the reply. Though this creed was not penned by the Apostles, it summarizes the Bible’s teaching with simplicity, brevity, and beauty. Originally used as a baptismal formula in the second century, it reached its present form in the sixth. It gives a concise expression of the fundamentals of historic Christianity.

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

And in Jesus Christ, His only-begotten Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits 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, catholic\* Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

\* Being understood “That out of the whole human race,<sup>1</sup> from the beginning to the end of the world,<sup>2</sup> the Son of God,<sup>3</sup> by His Spirit and Word,<sup>4</sup> gathers, defends, and preserves for Himself unto everlasting life a chosen communion<sup>5</sup> in the unity of the true faith;<sup>6</sup> and that I am and forever shall remain a living member of this communion.<sup>7</sup>” (Heidelberg Catechism #54)

[1] Gen. 26:4. [2] Jn. 10:10. [3] Eph. 1:10–13. [4] Rom. 1:16; Isa. 59:21; Rom. 10:14–17; Eph. 5:26. [5] Rom. 8:29–30; Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:3–6. [6] Acts 2:46; Ps. 71:18; 1 Cor. 11:26; Jn. 10:28–30; 1 Cor. 1:8–9. [7] 1 Jn. 3:21; 1 Jn. 2:19; \*Gal. 3:28