

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the 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, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he arose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there he shall come to judge the quick 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.

1) Who is **Jesus**?

Jesus is fully God and fully man. The two natures of Jesus are distinct yet unified in the person of Jesus. This is very important to understand. Jesus had to be both God and man in order to conquer sin and death on our behalf.

a) Jesus is fully God

(Hebrews 1:1-3)

[1] Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, [2] but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. [3] **He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.** After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

(Hebrews 1:8, 10)

[8] But of the Son he says, "Your throne, **O God**, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

[10] And, "**You, Lord**, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands;

(John 1:1)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.**

(John 14:7-9)

[7] If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” [8] Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” [9] Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

(Mark 2:10)

But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic

(John 5:18)

This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

b) Jesus is fully human

(Hebrews 2:17)

Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people

(Hebrews 4:15)

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

(Romans 5:18-19)

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. [19] For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

2) Jesus is the **Christ**

The name “Jesus” means “God saves.” Jesus demonstrates and proves through his earthly life and death that God does indeed save.

(Matthew 1:21)

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, **for he will save his people from their sins.**

Christ is not a surname of Jesus. It is a title meaning “the anointed one.” Christ is the equivalent to Messiah. In the OT, the Messiah was the promised long-awaited deliverer of God’s people. Now Jesus the Christ arrives to fulfill the OT prophecies. Jesus is both the messenger and the message. He is the true Christ.

(Matthew 16:13-16)

[13] Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” [14] And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” [15] He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” [16] Simon Peter replied, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**”

3) Jesus is **God’s only Son**

(John 1:14)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of **the only Son from the Father**, full of grace and truth.

(1 John 4:9)

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent **his only Son** into the world, so that we might live through him.

(John 3:18)

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the **only Son of God**.

4) Jesus is **our Lord**

People in the OT referred to God as Lord. In the NT, Jesus refers to God as the Lord while Jesus, himself, is also referred to as the Lord. By us calling Jesus "our Lord," we 1) trust and believe that Jesus is God and 2) we submit to his authority and rule over our lives.

(Philippians 2:10-11)

[10] so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
[11] and every tongue confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.

(Romans 10:9)

because, if you confess with your mouth that **Jesus is Lord** and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

(Acts 2:36)

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both **Lord and Christ**, this Jesus whom you crucified.

