

## 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) **The holy catholic church**

#### a) The church is holy

*[4] As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious,  
[5] **you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**  
[9] **But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**  
[10] *Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*  
(1 Peter 2:4-5;9-10 ESV)*

*[19] **So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, [20] built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, [21] in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. [22] In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.***  
(Ephesians 2:19-22)

#### b) The church is one

*[18] **And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.***  
(Colossians 1:18)

[22] *And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to **the church**, [23] **which is his body**, the fullness of him who fills all in all.*  
(Ephesians 1:22-23)

[4] **There is one body and one Spirit**—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call —[5] *one Lord, one faith, one baptism, [6] one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.* (Ephesians 4:4-6)

c) The church is catholic

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Invisible Church vs. Visible Church

*Westminster Confession of Faith:*

*The catholic or universal Church, which is **invisible**, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ the Head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fulness of Him that fills all in all.*

*The **visible** Church, which is also catholic or universal under the Gospel (not confined to one nation, as before under the law), consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion; and of their children: and is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, the house and family of God, out of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation.*

-Roman Catholic View vs. Protestant View

Marks of The Church

-true preaching of the Word of God

-right administration of the sacraments

-faithful exercise of discipline

## Purposes of The Church

- ministry to God: worship
- ministry to believers: nurture
- ministry to world : evangelism and mercy

## **2) The communion of saints**

*[44] And all who believed were together and had all things in common. [45] And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. [46] And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, [47] praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

*(Acts 2:44-47)*

*Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.*

*(Romans 12:13)*

*They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,*

*(1 Timothy 6:18)*

*Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*

*(Hebrews 13:16)*