

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) What is sin?

Sin is any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude, or nature. (Grudem)

2) Where did sin come from?

a) God is not the author of sin

The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.
(Deuteronomy 32:4)

Therefore, hear me, you men of understanding: far be it from God that he should do wickedness, and from the Almighty that he should do wrong.
(Job 34:10)

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.
(James 1:13)

b) Origin of sin in the angelic world

Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for **the devil has been sinning from the beginning**. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.
(1 John 3:8)

And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—
(Jude 1:6)

c) Origin of sin in the human race

[6] So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. [7] Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.
(Genesis 3:6-7)

3) Inherited sin of Adam

a) Inherited guilt

[12] **Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned**—[13] for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. [14] Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

[18] 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.
(Romans 5:12-14; 18-19)

For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
(1 Corinthians 15:21)

b) Inherited corruption / sinfulness

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
(Psalm 51:5)

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?
(Jeremiah 17:9)

4) Actual sin in the human race

a) Everybody is thoroughly sinful

They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.
(Psalm 14:3)

Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.
(Psalm 143:2)

for there is no one who does not sin
(1 Kings 8:46a)

[9] What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, [10] as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;
(Romans 3:9-10)

[8] If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. [10] If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.
(1 John 1:8,10)

5) What happens when a Christian sins?

a) Our legal standing is unchanged

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
(Romans 8:1)

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23)

b) Our fellowship with God is disrupted and our walk damaged yet God still loves us

For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”
(Hebrews 12:6)

but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.
(Hebrews 12:10b)

Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.
(Revelation 3:19)

6) The punishment of sin

a) God punishes sin to 1) deter men from sin, 2) reform the sinner, and 3) vindicate his divine righteousness and justice.

b) The actual penalty of sin is 1) spiritual death, 2) sufferings of life, and 3) physical death.

7) The forgiveness of sin

a) Not only are we forgiven of sins, but we are also made righteous. Both are required to be able to be in fellowship with God.

[21] But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—[22] the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24] and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25] whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. [26] It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
(Romans 3:21-26 ESV)

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
(2 Corinthians 5:21)