



## Biblical Basis of the Apostles' Creed

February 23

**CONTEXT:** We're continuing on in our exploration of the oldest Christian creed, the Apostles' Creed. Last time we looked at the beginning about the Father. Today we'll consider all it says about the Son. Not only is there a Trinitarian focus in the Creed (Father, Son and Spirit) but also one that stresses Jesus' manhood—He really existed as a real person! This is because two of the great threats the early Church faced was Docetism (= Jesus only “appeared” as a man) and Gnosticism (=“knowledge”, that flesh was evil and so a) the Christ spirit descended on a man named Jesus or that Jesus never rose from the dead because the body= evil). This is probably what 1 Jn 4:2 is addressing; hence the emphasis in the Creed.

**Challenge:** Christians have memorized this creed for centuries, might you memorize the Apostles Creed?

### FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (Kirk Wannop)

- Summarize the key point of the message
- What struck you?
- What are you going away thinking more about?
- What was God through His Word asking you to do?

**READ:** The Apostles' Creed (over)

### QUESTIONS:

1. **Who do people say that Jesus is today? (c.f. Mt 16)**
2. **Why does what we believe about Jesus matter?**
3. **How can we help people understand who Jesus is?**
4. **What aspects of Jesus' life are missing in the Apostles' Creed?**
5. *The Apostles Creed reminds us that Jesus is: real, [was] rejected, risen, ruling and returning;*

Real (God's Son, Lk 1:32–33; conceptions, Lk 1:27; birth Lk 2:7)

6. The ancients struggled that God would become man; moderns struggle that a man could be \_\_\_\_\_.

7. Why do people struggle with the Virgin Birth? Why is it so foundational to Christianity?

Rejected (skim Mk 15)

8. In your own words describe how Jesus suffered, was crucified, died and was buried in Mk 15.
9. **Why do you think Pilate is mentioned by name?**
10. Jesus speaks of the necessity of these things (Lk 9:22). Why is this so?
11. **1 Cor 1:23- Why is this still the case today? Should we soften the Gospel?**
12. *Descended to the dead could simply mean He really died. Some think Christ went to preach to the dead or went to Hell as a ransom to Satan those these do not have any Biblical warrant.*

Risen and Ascended

13. **1 Cor 15:2–3- Why is the Cross and Resurrection necessary for a “full” Gospel? What is the believer offered in Christ's death and in His Resurrection?**
14. **How does 1 Cor 15:54 offer hope to the believer?**
15. **Mt 23:12- How does the Ascension speak hope to the believer?**
16. Why is the Ascension a neglected part of Jesus life and yet so important? What was accomplished through the Ascension?

Ruling and Returning (save the living and the dead” for the 2<sup>nd</sup>)

17. Read these two passages on the right hand and discuss their relevance for believers (Heb 1:3; Acts 7:56).
18. **Mt 24:26- Why is it an encouragement to believers (and a warning to unbelievers) that Jesus is returning?**
19. Why does Jesus need to come twice? How does His grace and justice answer this?
20. *There are 3 main views on Jesus return: a) secretly at the rapture and then visibly before the Millennial reign, b) visibly before the Millennial reign, c) visibly at the end of history. Which do you believe the Bible supports and why? Regardless of your view of Christ's return, Christians believe Jesus to be the coming Judge.*

**NEXT TIME:** March 2<sup>nd</sup>- Exploring the Biblical basis of the Apostles' Creed, pt. III.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator 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, died, and was buried;  
He descended to the dead;  
And on the third day He rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
He is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty,  
from thence 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.