

Renew: What Do Christians Believe?

The Foundations of Faith & The Nature of God

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son,
our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the
Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.

He will come again to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church*,
the communion of the saints,

the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.

Amen.

"As the Lord's Prayer is the Prayer of prayers and the Decalogue the Law of laws, so the Apostles' Creed is the Creed of creeds. It contains all the fundamental articles of the Christian faith necessary to salvation, in the form of fact, in simple Scripture language, in the most natural order - the order of revelation - from God and the creation down to the resurrection and life everlasting."

- Philip Schaff (*What Christians Ought to Believe* 26).

Sola Scriptura means:

Part 1: The Foundations of Faith

Notes

General Revelation	Special Revelation
1.	1.
	2.
2.	3.

Part 2: The Nature of God

7 Clear Truths from Scripture:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

How do all of these fit together?!

Additional Scriptures: Isaiah 45:18-22; 1Timothy 2:5; Colossians 2:9; John 1:1-3, 8:58; Luke 3:21-22; 1Corinthians 12:4-6; Ephesians 4:30; Romans 8:26-27; Romans 1:1-4, 5:1-5, 15:30; 1Peter 1:1-2; Revelation 1:4

Why does the Trinity matter?

1. _____

2. _____

Discussion Questions

1. What did you find most helpful or most challenging from this class?
 2. After hearing the teaching, do you think faith in the God of the Bible is reasonable and rational? What concerns do you still have that make it difficult sometimes to believe in the God of the Bible?
 3. If the Trinitarian God of the Bible really is the One, True God, what does that mean for your life? What are the implications? What should change about your thinking/ behavior?
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Weekly Devotions

Over the course of the next three weeks, complete the devotions listed below by reading the assigned Scripture, answering the questions that follow, and praying in line with what you learned. Each devotion should take no more than 15 minutes. Consider using the **ReadScripture** app to assist you.

(The questions are based on the English Standard Version of the Bible)

Week 1: Read Psalm 19:1-3

1. The psalms are, by their very nature, poetic and often utilize metaphors and figures of speech. The heavens and the skies do not literally and audibly "declare" or "proclaim" things. What then is this Psalm telling us about the heavens/sky? What purpose do they accomplish?
2. According to this psalm, who (or how many people) hear this "speech" of the heavens/sky?
3. What does this teach you about God (Father, Son, and Spirit)?
4. What does this teach you about yourself (sinful attitudes/behaviors to confess and repent of, a need that you have, a way in which you need to grow/change, etc.)
5. Using what you learned, spend 5 minutes in prayer 1) adoring God for who He is, 2) thanking Him for what He's done, 3) depending on what you learned about yourself, asking Him for assistance, forgiveness, strength, etc., 4) and praising God for the assurance and love you have through the Gospel.

Week 2: Read Hebrews 1:1-3

1. According to the wording of verse 2, are "these last days" a time period still in the future or a time period that has already started?
2. How has God most clearly spoken to or revealed Himself to us right now?
3. What do verses 2-3 teach us about the Son of God (Jesus)? Does this description sound like Jesus is a being equal to or lesser than God?
4. What does this teach you about God (Father, Son, and Spirit)?
5. What does this teach you about yourself (sinful attitudes/behaviors to confess and repent of, a need that you have, a way in which you need to grow/change, etc.)
6. Using what you learned, spend 5 minutes in prayer 1) adoring God for who He is, 2) thanking Him for what He's done, 3) depending on what you learned about yourself, asking Him for assistance, forgiveness, strength, etc., 4) and praising God for the assurance and love you have through the Gospel.

Week 3: Read Galatians 4:4-7

1. Where do you see each person of the Trinity in these verses? What is the role that each person plays?
 2. According to these verses, what did the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit work together to accomplish for us? Who are we before receiving this work of the Triune God and who are we after we receive it?
 3. What does this teach you about God (Father, Son, and Spirit)?
 4. What does this teach you about yourself (sinful attitudes/behaviors to confess and repent of, a need that you have, a way in which you need to grow/change, etc.)
 5. Using what you learned, spend 5 minutes in prayer 1) adoring God for who He is, 2) thanking Him for what He's done, 3) depending on what you learned about yourself, asking Him for assistance, forgiveness, strength, etc., 4) and praising God for the assurance and love you have through the Gospel.
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Resources

Books

- [*The Reason for God*](#) - Timothy Keller
- [*Making Sense of God*](#) - Timothy Keller
- [*Confronting Christianity*](#) - Rebecca McLaughlin
- [*On Guard: Defending Your Faith with Reason & Precision*](#) - William Lane Craig
- [*Mere Christianity*](#) - C.S. Lewis
- [*What Christians Ought to Believe*](#) - Michael F. Bird
- [*Systematic Theology*](#) - Wayne Grudem
- [*Bible Doctrine*](#) - Wayne Grudem

Articles

- <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-reliable.html>
- <https://www.thevillagechurch.net/resources/articles/biblical-history-a-visual-timeline>
- <https://tabletalkmagazine.com/posts/jesus-the-shema-and-the-glorious-trinity/>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/no-trinity-no-love/>

Video/Audio

- *Biblical Training.org: Systematic Theology* - Dr. Bruce Ware
 - [*Doctrine of Scripture*](#)
 - [*Special Revelation; Inspiration*](#)
 - [*Theism; Proof of God's Existence*](#)
 - [*Knowledge of God; the Trinity*](#)
 - [*The Trinity*](#)
- [*Five Reasons You Can Trust Your Bible*](#) - J. Warner Wallace
- [*Who is God?*](#) - The Bible Project
- [*Why is God 3 Persons?*](#) - Gavin Ortlund
- [*How to Better Understand the Holy Trinity*](#) - The Gospel Coalition



**In this context, "catholic church" simply refers to the one universal body of Christian believers from all over the world and throughout time. It is not referring to the institution of the Roman Catholic Church as it is known today, which did not exist when the Apostles' Creed first originated.*