

## Session 4 – Apostles’ Creed: The First Article: The Father (Creation)

1. There are only three things that people base their convictions in life upon:

- A. What they \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. What they \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. What God \_\_\_\_\_.

What is the danger of basing what you believe on the first two?

2. What does God say about Who He is? In His Word He has told us that He is:

- \_\_\_\_\_ (John 4:24).
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 90:1-2, 1 Timothy 1:17).
- \_\_\_\_\_ in His attributes and will (Psalm 102:27, Malachi 3:6, James 1:17).
- \_\_\_\_\_ or omnipotent (Genesis 17:1, Matthew 19:26).
- \_\_\_\_\_ or omniscient (Psalm 139:1-4, John 21:17).
- \_\_\_\_\_ or omnipresent (Jeremiah 23:24, Acts 17:27).
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Leviticus 19:2, Psalm 5:4-5, Isaiah 6:3).
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Deuteronomy 32:4, Psalm 89:14).
- \_\_\_\_\_ or keeping His promises (2 Timothy 2:13).
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Jeremiah 3:12, Titus 3:5).
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Exodus 34:6-7, Isaiah 30:18).
- \_\_\_\_\_ (John 3:16, 1 John 4:8).

God’s attributes help us to know Who God is. God is each of these, all of these, and more than these attributes.

3. Dr. Johannes Mengsteab has said, “Christianity is always one generation away from extinction.” What do you think He means?

4. Many people talk about having a “private faith,” but the Christian faith has always been a very public matter. The message of *Who God is* and *what He has done* has been passed down and multiplied through the *audible testimony* of believers. The profession of the Christian creeds is one crucial way that the truth of God have been re-established in each new generation. What is a creed?

- A. It comes from the first words of the Creeds (Latin) “Credo” which means “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- B. It is a statement of faith (Matthew 10:32-33).
- C. The creeds begins with “I believe” and not “We believe” because each person must believe for himself or herself; no one can be saved by another’s faith (Habakkuk 2:4).

D. Although the Creeds are not found in complete form in the Bible, they are a compilation of what the Bible teaches about God (1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 1 Peter 3:18-22).

5. There are three Universal Christian Creeds:

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_

The Apostles' Creed has been used for instruction in the Christian faith ever since the life of the early Church.

6. The confession of the Apostles' Creed is best understood when it is set out as follows:

I believe in God:

- The Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth (\_\_\_\_\_ Article).
- The Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (\_\_\_\_\_ Article).
- The Holy Spirit (\_\_\_\_\_ Article).

7. The Bible teaches:

- There is only one God (Genesis 1:1, Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 42:8).
- There are three Persons in that one God: Father \_\_\_\_\_, Son \_\_\_\_\_, and Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 2:7, John 15:26, Galatians 4:6, 1 John 5:6-8).
- Though each Person is fully God, each Person is distinct (Matthew 25:34, John 16:12-15).
- All Persons existed from eternity (Genesis 1:1-3).
- Keep in mind that the Trinity cannot be explained in rational human terms. We believe it because the Bible teaches it, not because we can intellectually grasp it.
- See **Appendix E** for a chart that helps explain the Trinity.

8. **The First Article** – *I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.* God the Father is the Creator, \_\_\_\_\_, and Provider (see also the explanation in Luther's Small Catechism).

9. As Creator, God made the material universe, and all within it out of \_\_\_\_\_ in 6 literal days (Genesis 1, Job 38:21, Hebrews 11:3). To see the Christian's proper response to theories of evolution, see the Appendix F on *The Basics of Creation*.

10. He created all things visible and invisible by the power of His \_\_\_\_\_ (Colossians 1:16). Invisible beings which God created include all the angels. Concerning angels, the Bible teaches:
- A. They are spirit beings who were created holy (Hebrews 1:1-14, Revelation 5:11-14)
  - B. Some angels, led by Lucifer or Satan, rebelled against God sometime before the creation of the world. They are devils or demons (Isaiah 14:11-20, Daniel 8:9-11, Revelation 12:4).
  - C. The good angels are many and powerful. They are God's messengers who serve Him and help us (Daniel 7:10, Luke 2:13, Psalm 103:20-21, Psalm 91:11-12).
  - D. The evil angels are also many and powerful. They hate God and seek to destroy everything that is good, especially faith in Christ (Mark 5:9, Ephesians 6:12, Mark 4:15, John 8:44, 1 Peter 5:8-9) They are deceptive (Angel of Light)
11. Human beings are the most important visible creatures. God created Adam and Eve in His own image, with authority over all the earth (Genesis 2:7, Genesis 1:26-28, Mark 10:6). Although God gave Adam and Eve the charge of being the \_\_\_\_\_ of His creation, He continues to be the Owner of all He has made (Genesis 1:26, Deuteronomy 8:1-18, Hebrews 1:3). We create and own nothing, and merely use God what made and owns, including "our" bodies (Psalm 24:1, Colossians 1:17). God created us to be His instruments for service to others (Luke 17:10, Ephesians 2:10)
12. As our Provider, God richly and daily provides us with all that we need to support this body and life. He defends us against danger, and guards and protects from evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. For all this it is our duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him as good \_\_\_\_\_ of His creation (Psalm 116:12, Psalm 118:1, Genesis 2:15).
13. How is it possible that we don't actually "own" anything? **Read Job 41:11.** How can this verse keep you from placing the "my" prefix before all the earthly blessings God has entrusted to you?
14. Take a few seconds to think about the following question: "How much does a cup of coffee cost?" If you think about it, the real answer is nothing. **Read Psalm 145:15-16.** God created the soil, sent the sunshine, supplied the rain, grew the plants, nourished the coffee beans, and provided the intellect and ability to the "makers" of the coffee. We simply pay for \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. Understanding this, how can we better manage "our" possessions and keep our human *greed* from denying other's human *need*?
15. What does it mean to be made in the image of God? It means:
- 16.
- Being the \_\_\_\_\_ of all God's creation (Genesis 2:15).

- Having perfect \_\_\_\_\_ of God (Genesis 2:16-17).
- Having perfect \_\_\_\_\_ with God (Genesis 2:19).
- Being righteous, holy, and \_\_\_\_\_ in love and service (Genesis 2:21-25).

17. In the Garden of Eden (which was a paradise where there was no sin, suffering, or death before the Fall), Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan. His temptation was two-fold then, and has been ever since. He tempted them:

- A. To \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word (Genesis 3:1)
- B. To \_\_\_\_\_ in His place (Genesis 3:5)

18. Instead of being content with being in His image, Adam and Eve wanted to take God's authority for themselves and reign in His place (Genesis 3:5). The consequence was that sin and death were brought into a perfect world and handed down to all of humanity. From that day on, humans have been born in the spiritual deadness and isolation of sin (Ephesians 2:1-5). The ongoing effect of Adam and Eve's fall in the garden is called \_\_\_\_\_ sin. G.K. Chesterton has noted that this is only obvious doctrine of the Christian faith. In what ways are his words true? (because evil is so obvious in the world)

19. Many have wondered why God allowed it to happen. Yet amazingly enough, genuine love always runs the risk of \_\_\_\_\_.

20. The rippling effects of sin had crippling consequences. Sin shattered the relationship between:

- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 3).
- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 3).
- \_\_\_\_\_ members (Genesis 4).
- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ beings (Genesis 6).
- The \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 11).

21. The context of \_\_\_\_\_ is gone. The curse of \_\_\_\_\_ prevails. According to the natural nature alone, people are captive prisoners to the cycle of serving themselves (Genesis 6:5, 1 Corinthians 2:11-14).

22. Where are we to look for answers to our problems of separation? How can we undo the spiritual chaos in our lives, in our families, and in our world? **Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-19.** When two enemies become friends, it is called *reconciliation*. How have we been reconciled to God forever? Since we have been reconciled to Him, how should we reconcile ourselves to others?

23. For those who are recreated in Christ (those who repent and believe in what He has done for them), the image:

- Of God is \_\_\_\_\_ restored and will be fully \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven (2 Corinthians 4:4-6, Colossians 3:9-10). (NOTE: Declared vs. Made)
- Is being restored in \_\_\_\_\_ who seek to serve God and others in response to His love. This growth process always takes place within the context of Christian community (Acts 2:41-47).

24. We don't have to wait for God to start loving us. He already does love us and has provided for us our Divine Reconciler, Jesus Christ. **Read Colossians 1:19-23.** By faith in the all-sufficient work of Jesus on our behalf, our \_\_\_\_\_ with God is restored. Once we are reconciled to God, we strive with the help of His Holy Spirit to restore our relationships with others.