

## The Creed – Four Marks of the Church



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## The Nicene Creed – 4th Century

- I believe in **one God**,
- **The Father** almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible
- I believe in **one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son** of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven
- and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man
- For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried
- and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures
- He ascended into heaven
- and is seated at the right hand of the Father
- He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end
- I believe in **the Holy Spirit**, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets
- I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church
- I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
- and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

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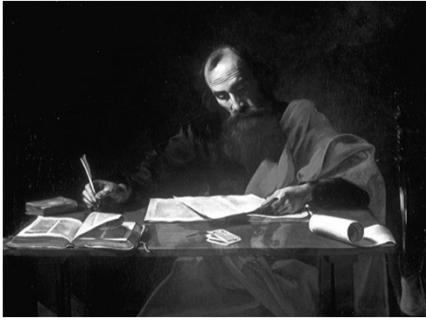
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The Church is One



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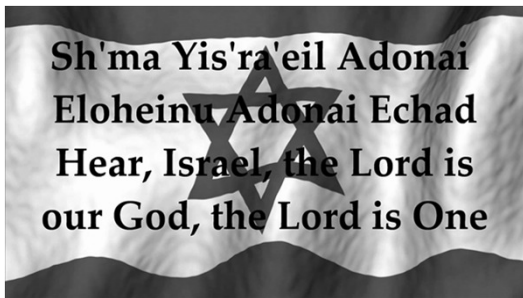
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The Church is One



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The Church is One



- As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.
- For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit 1 Cor 12:12-13

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### The Church is One



- I urge you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose
- For it has been reported to me about you, my brothers, by Chloe's people, that there are rivalries among you 1 Cor 1:10-11

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### The Church is One



- one cannot charge ... those who at present are born into these communities
- the Catholic Church accepts them with as brothers
- All who have been justified by faith in Baptism are incorporated into Christ;
- they have a right to be called Christians, and are accepted in the Lord by the Catholic Church." CCC 818

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### The Church is Holy

- Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her
- to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word,
- that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. EPH 5: 25-27



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### The Apostle's Creed

- 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 into Hell;
- The third day He rose again from the dead;
- He ascended into Heaven,
- And 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 life everlasting.

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### The Church is Holy




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### The Church is Holy

- Some saints do achieve holiness here on earth
- In canonizing them, the Church does not make them saints, but officially recognizes their special virtue
- Because these saints are still brothers and sisters in the Church, we can ask for their intercession on our behalf.




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### The Church is Holy



"Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat."

Mother Teresa

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### The Church is Catholic

- The disciples went to Galilee
- Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
- Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
- And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." MAT 28: 16-20



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### The Church is Apostolic



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### Pastoral Epistles – Apostolic Structure

- I left you in Crete so that you might set right what remains to be done and appoint presbyters in every town 1Ti 1:5
- For a bishop as God's steward must be blameless, not arrogant, not irritable, not a drunkard, not aggressive, not greedy for sordid gain, but hospitable, a lover of goodness, temperate, just, holy, and self-controlled, holding fast to the true message as taught so that he will be able both to exhort with sound doctrine and to refute 1Ti 3:7-9
- This saying is trustworthy: whoever aspires to the office of bishop desires a noble task. 1Ti 3:10




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### Colossians/Ephesians – The Church as the beloved Body of Christ

- He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he himself might be preeminent. And you who once were alienated and hostile in mind because of evil deeds he has now reconciled in his fleshy body through his death, to present you holy, without blemish, and irreproachable before him Col 1:18, 21-22




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### Colossians/Ephesians – The Church as the beloved Body of Christ

- living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love. Col 2:21-22
- Let no one disqualify you, delighting in self-abasement and worship of angels, taking his stand on visions, inflated without reason by his fleshy mind, and not holding closely to the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and bonds, achieves the growth that comes from God Col 2:18-19
- Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. Eph 5: 25-27




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### Luke/Acts - The Church as the domain of the Spirit

- you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. ACT 1: 8
- 'It is the decision of the holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities,ACT 15: 28
- And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit ACT 2: 2-4




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### 1 Peter - The Church as People of God

- Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind, 1 PET 1: 13
- do not act in compliance with the desires of your former ignorances, 1 PET 1: 14
- as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in every aspect of your conduct, for it is written, "Be holy because I am holy" 1 PET 1: 15-16
- realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors, 1 PET 1: 17
- not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ as of a spotless unblemished lamb 1 PET 1: 18-19
- you are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own 1 PET 2: 9
- This is how you are to eat it: with your loins girt EXO 12:11
- If only we had died at the LORD's hand in the land of Egypt, as we sat by our kettles of meat and ate our fill of bread! EXO 16: 2-3
- Be holy, for I, the LORD your God, am holy. LEV 19: 2
- I am the LORD. I will deliver you from their slavery. EXO 6: 5-6
- Take off the golden earrings and bring them to me." He received their offering, and fashioning it with a tool, made a molten calf. EXO 32: 1-4
- I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God EXO 6: 7

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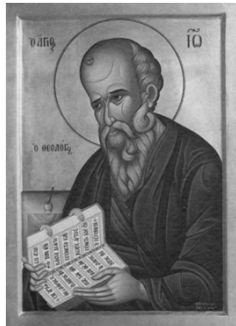
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### John- Christians as Disciples

- Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. JHN 1: 18-19
- I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing JHN 15: 5
- The disciples looked at one another, at a loss as to whom he meant. One of his disciples, the one whom Jesus loved, was reclining at Jesus' side. So Simon Peter nodded to him to find out whom he meant. JHN 13: 22-24
- But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. JHN 16: 13




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### The Church is Apostolic



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### Reflection and Discussion

- Take a few minutes to read through the reflection and discussion questions
- Answer each of the questions from your own perspective – there are no right or wrong answers to these questions
- Go around the table and have each person share their answers
- Pick one of the answers for your table to share with the room



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