



We Believe In
Various Verses
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The apostles were the pillars of the early church.

Galatians 2:9 ...James, Peter, and John, who were known as pillars of the church... (NLT)

The early church devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching: the creed of the pillars.

Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching... (NIV)

Over time, the apostles' teaching transformed the church into a pillar that stored, stewarded, and safeguarded the truth down through the generations.

1 Timothy 3:15 ... the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. (NAS)

2 Timothy 1:13 What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching.... 14 Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you.... 2:2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. (NIV)

Pattern of Sound Teaching: Get it, guard it, and give it.

Titus 1:9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. (NIV)

1 Timothy 4:16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them... (NIV)

As we overcome and live victoriously in the pillars of truth, we each become pillars in the kingdom of God.

Revelation 3:12 The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God... (NIV)

Creeds existed prior to the writing and finalizing of the New Testament.

Creeds are the guardrails of the New Testament commands to hold to truth and resist false doctrine.

Scripture is God revealing truth.
Creeds are the church confessing what Scripture says.

The Nicene Creed is the most important creed in history because it is the only confession that every Christian group affirms.

It states who God is, what he has done, and how our lives are changed.

"We Believe In"

▪ **"We": Creeds Affirm Community**

Our faith is personal, but it is not private. We need to have a faith *for* ourselves, but not *by* ourselves.

Romans 12:5 So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (NIV)

Ephesians 2:19 Now...you are members of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian. (TLB)

▪ **"Believe": Creeds Outline Maturity**

Maturing Christians are discerning Christians, and doctrine develops discernment.

2 Timothy 1:13 What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. (NIV)

▪ **"In": Creeds Invite Proximity ("in Christ")**

Our faith is not in principles or positions, but a Person.

Romans 6:23 The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NIV)

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (NIV)

Creeds are not just statements – they are stories.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one essence with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
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.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and
glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of
sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Adapted from the *Book of Common Prayer*, 1979.

The Nicene Creed was first formulated at the Council of Nicaea in AD 325 and expanded at the Council of Constantinople in AD 381.

The Nicene Creed is the most historical, global, ecumenical, and influential creed.

Pre-New Testament Creeds

The New Testament contains around 25 passages that contain creeds:

1. Explicitly Received and Passed on Tradition (1 Cor. 11:23-26; 15:3-5)
2. Pre-Existing Hymns (Phil. 2:6-11)
3. Short Confessional Statements (Rom. 10:9; Eph. 4:4-6)

Post-New Testament Creeds

Ignatius, bishop in Antioch, AD 115
Justin Martyr, Christian apologist and philosopher, AD 165
Irenaeus, bishop in Lyons, AD 175
Tertullian, priest in North Africa, AD 200
Hippolytus, bishop in Rome, AD 215

Scripture & Creeds

Creeds...

Summarize: Condense the central teaching of Scripture

Clarify: Explain how the church understands Scripture

Teach: Provide a framework for learning Christian doctrine

Defend: Guard against false interpretations and heresies

Unite: Give Christians a common confession