



Christian Creeds



Creed (Latin: credo- I believe) The creeds explain who is inside of the Christian community and who is outside of it. In other words, the creeds provide the minimum definition of orthodoxy and heresy. They are also used to insure the right interpretation of scripture (known as the "Rule of Faith"). An interpretation is Christian if it is consistent with the creeds.



The Apostles Creed



1. Between 120- 250 A.D.
2. It is Trinitarian and is based upon the Old and New Testaments.
3. It is perhaps a response to Marcion and his false doctrines



The Nicene Creed



1. Arius (250-336 AD), a priest from Alexandria Egypt, asserted the Jesus Christ is a created being and not God.
2. The Arian controversy was settled at the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D.
3. The Council concluded that our God is three persons with one substance.
4. The controversy resurfaced with the neo-Arians and the pneumatimachi (against the Spirit).
5. The controversy was settled again in Constantinople 381 A.D.
6. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are all God. They share the same substance.

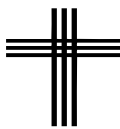


Chalcedonian Creed

Son of Man



Jesus Christ



Son of God



1. Nestorius, Patriarch of Constantinople (386-450AD), denied the hypostatic union.
2. He was charged with separating Jesus' divinity from his humanity.
3. Nestorius asserted Jesus Christ is two persons in one body.
4. Settled in Chalcedon in 451 A.D.
5. Jesus Christ is one person with two natures. One nature is fully human and the other nature is fully divine.

Athanasian Creed



The Father



The Son



The Holy Spirit

1. It was probably not written by Athanasius, whose efforts led to the resolution of the Arian controversy at Nicea.
2. It dates between the late fifth and early sixth century A.D (450-550 A.D.).
3. It combines the contents of the Nicene/ Constantinople Creed and the Chalcedonian Creed.