

Foundations of Faith (A Catechism for Today)

Sunday 3 – January 15

Question 5: What as Christians are we to believe?

We are to believe the gospel, a summary of which is contained in the Apostles' Creed. While not written by the apostles this brief confession of the church's essential faith had its origins in the first century and has instructed and guided Christians through the years connecting us in a common faith with the earliest Christian communities.

Mk 1:14 The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.

Rom 10:9 If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

2 Cor 4:13 "I believed, and so I spoke" – we also believe, and so we speak.

Jn 20:31 But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

1 Tim 1:19 Cling to your faith in Christ, and keep your conscience clear. For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their faith has been shipwrecked.

2 Tim 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.

1Pet 3:15 Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.

Jude 3 Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people.

I. The Apostles' Creed

Question 6: What is this summary of the faith?

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will 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 the life everlasting.

Question 7: What are the three parts of the Apostles' Creed?

The first is about God the Father, including our creation; the second is about God the Son, including the history of our redemption; and the third is about God, the Holy Spirit, including the church and the Christian hope.