

## What the Apostles Creed Means To Me

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The Apostles' Creed is an early statement of Christian belief. The word, "creed," comes from the word *credo*, which in Latin means "I believe." Each phrase in the Creed comes from a different part of the Bible. For example, in Genesis 1:1 we read, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," which goes along with the First Article of the Creed concerning God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

This Apostles' Creed is the oldest and most widely used creed in the Church. It is recognized by all branches of Christianity: Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant. The Apostles' Creed starts with the Creation of the earth and ends with the life everlasting in the New Creation. It was not actually written by the Apostles, but it does reflect their thoughts.

We say the Apostles' Creed to make a statement of our own Christian faith today. We say this Creed in church to show that we believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and that He will come back to earth one day and judge us. The most important part of the Creed to me is where it says that we are forgiven of our sins because of Jesus' death on the cross. This is the Good News. Romans 10:17 says, "Consequently faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the word about Christ." It is very comforting to me to know that as long as I believe in Him, I will have eternal life with Him.

**Article One** of the Apostles' Creed talks about the past and where we came from and all **CREATION**. I believe God created everything on earth long ago and has also created my body, soul, eyes, ears and all parts of my body, so that I may come to know Him.

The **Second Article** of the Apostles' Creed talks about **REDEMPTION** in our lives today. Christ continues to offer us the forgiveness and new life He purchased when on the cross He redeemed us from all sin, death and the devil. I know this was at a cost more than any earthly item, it was through His precious blood and His innocent body that we are saved from our sins.

The **Third Article** of the Apostle's Creed talks about the Holy Spirit and **SANCTIFICATION**. I know that I cannot come to the Lord on my own power. But the Holy Spirit has called me and kept me in the true Christian faith.

The Apostles' Creed also helps me share God's Word with other people by reminding me that I am part of a bigger community of Christians. I can help share God's Word further with others by taking what the Creed plainly states and telling others they have nothing to fear, God is taking care of us. As long as we believe in Him, all who believe will have eternal life in Heaven with Him someday. But let's remember that believing is not just knowing the facts - it is trusting or *entrusting* our lives to Christ - as it says in Psalm 12:14, "But I *trust* in you, Lord; I say, 'You are *my* God.'" Whether I am sharing with people I know or with total strangers, the Apostles' Creed helps me keep a consistent belief that I can share. We all can share our faith using the Apostles' Creed.

In conclusion, I know that by reciting the Apostles' Creed regularly in church I am telling God and others on earth that I fully believe in Him and in His power to save me from my sins now and always. I also know that I will have a forever home with Him in Heaven one day, and that gives me comfort while I am still on earth. Amen. This is most certainly true!