



## Creeds

*Our Christian faith is not just a faith of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is an ancient faith. It is a faith that connects followers of our Lord Jesus Christ over thousands of years. The Church is who she is because of those faithful saints of old. We stand on the shoulders of those that have gone before us.*

*Throughout history the church and the people of God have needed to concisely summarize their beliefs in the face of false beliefs. These summaries are known as creeds and have inspired, grounded, and educated generations of Christians. The creeds are truth statements of the Christian Faith.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Do all of the following requirements (1-4)

\_\_\_\_\_1. The word creed comes from the Latin “credo” which means ‘I believe.’ Complete the following two studies individually or in a group setting:

\_\_\_\_\_a. Participate in a word study of ‘believe’.

\_\_\_\_\_i. Read Romans 10:9; James 2:19; John 14:1; Genesis 15:1-6; Exodus 4:27-31; Jonah 3:5.

\_\_\_\_\_ii. Look up the definitions of believe, faith, and confess in an English dictionary. Look up pisteuo (believe) and homologeo (confess) in a Greek dictionary, and aman (believe) in a Hebrew dictionary.

\_\_\_\_\_iii. In your study answer the following questions:

1. What is belief?
2. What does it mean to believe?
3. What role does profession or confession of belief play in the Christian’s life?

\_\_\_\_\_b. Participate in a study of what the Bible says about itself.

\_\_\_\_\_i. Read Matthew 4:4; II Timothy 3:16; I Peter 1:22-25; II Peter 1:20-21

\_\_\_\_\_ii. In your study, answer the following questions:

1. What do these verses teach about the Bible?
2. How is a creed judged by the Bible?

\_\_\_\_\_2. Read the Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed.

\_\_\_\_\_a. List the truth statements in the Apostles’ Creed.

\_\_\_\_\_b. List the truth statements of the Apostles’ Creed that are expanded in the Nicene Creed.

- \_\_\_\_\_c. List the truth statements in the Nicene Creed that are not in the Apostles' Creed.
- \_\_\_\_\_3. The creeds were written in response to heresy. Research and explain one of the heresies below.
  - \_\_\_\_\_a. Gnosticism
  - \_\_\_\_\_b. Sabellianism
  - \_\_\_\_\_c. Marcionism
  - \_\_\_\_\_d. Arianism
  - \_\_\_\_\_e. Docetism
  - \_\_\_\_\_f. Nestorianism
  - \_\_\_\_\_g. Apollinarianism
- \_\_\_\_\_4. Reflect upon the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds and do the following:
  - \_\_\_\_\_a. Explain how they reflect the beliefs of all Christians.
  - \_\_\_\_\_b. Explain how the creeds confront problems the church has faced.

**Do four of the following optional requirements (5-22)**

- \_\_\_\_\_5. Read the Trail Life USA Statements of Faith and Values. Discuss the Statements of Faith and Values with your mentor including explaining how those statements:
  - \_\_\_\_\_a. Affect Trail Life USA
  - \_\_\_\_\_b. Guide your troop
  - \_\_\_\_\_c. Make Trail Life USA unique among male youth character development organizations
  - \_\_\_\_\_d. Change you and your behavior
- \_\_\_\_\_6. Research the Trinity by doing the following and then explain the Trinity to your mentor.
  - \_\_\_\_\_a. Look up the definition of the Trinity.
  - \_\_\_\_\_b. Find a picture of the *Shield of the Trinity* and determine what relations are represented.
  - \_\_\_\_\_c. Read Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 44:6; Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16-17; John 1:1-5,17; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; and 1 Thessalonians 1:2-5.
- \_\_\_\_\_7. Create a poster or presentation of the Attributes of God using at least the following readings:
  - \_\_\_\_\_a. Read Psalm 90:2; 1 Kings 8:27; Rev 1:8; John 4:24; 1 Peter 1:16; Psalm 99:9; Psalm 145:17; John 4:8; Ephesians 2:4; Isaiah 55:8-9; Acts 17:27-28.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Read Psalm 90:2; 1 Kings 8:27; Rev 1:8; John 4:24; 1 Peter 1:16; Psalm 99:9; Psalm 145:17; John 4:8; Ephesians 2:4; Isaiah 55:8-9; and Acts 17:27-28. Look up the definition of *Christology*, and create a poster or presentation on the person and nature of Jesus Christ that includes the truth statements about Christ from the Nicene Creed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Create a poster or presentation of the Life of Christ including the events cited in the Nicene Creed and other key events from the life of Christ described in the Gospel accounts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Create a poster or presentation about the Holy Spirit using at least the following readings:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a. Read Galatians 5:22–23; Isaiah 11:1-2; and Romans 12:6-8.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Read 2 Corinthians 3:17; John 6:63; John 14:16-17; John 4:24; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Acts 1:8; and Romans 8:11A key term in the Nicene Creed is the Greek word *homoousios*, which is translated as *consubstantial* or *of the same substance*. Research this term and report your findings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Read the Chalcedon definition. List the truth statements of the Chalcedon definition that are not explicitly stated in the Nicene Creed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Read the Athanasian Creed. List the truth statements of the Athanasian Creed that are not explicitly stated in the Nicene Creed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Research one of the following early church figures. Present a three-minute oral biography of him and explain how he contributed to the writing of the Creeds.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a. Constantine
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. Athanasius
  - \_\_\_\_\_ c. Eusebius of Caesarea
  - \_\_\_\_\_ d. Cyril of Alexandria
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Repeat requirement 14 with a different person.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Repeat requirement 3 with a different heresy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. Find a song based on one of the creeds and sing it in a worship service at your church, chapel, or campout.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. Memorize and recite the Apostle’s Creed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. Memorize and recite the Nicene Creed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. If your church has a statement of faith, compare it to the creeds and describe what is different.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. Create a Responsive Reading either from the Apostle’s Creed, Nicene Creed, or other creedal document approved by your Pastor. Lead the recitation of your Responsive Reading during a worship service at your church, chapel, or campout.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. Describe how three other churches or denominations use the creeds.

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Trail Badge Mentor Signature

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Date

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