

THIS I BELIEVE





WELCOME

We are so glad that you decided to join us for this discipleship course. Our hope is that as you go through the scriptures, discuss the content, ask questions and allow God to speak to your heart and mind, that you will be inspired to walk with God and “believe” in Him with all your heart.

WHAT IT’S ALL ABOUT

This course is an in-depth and interactive look at the statements in the Apostle’s Creed. The Apostles’ Creed (as well as the Nicene Creed) date back to the 1st and 2nd centuries and were an attempt by believers to declare what they believe in an effort to both defend their faith and to equip themselves to share their faith.

A Springboard

The Apostles Creed is not equal to scripture in any way. We are simply going to use this early statement of faith as a guideline to discuss what scripture says about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Church and everlasting life.

Interact and Enjoy

This course is meant to be an interactive experience. Make sure you jot down any questions you might have and ask them during the Questions section at the end of each session. Our hope is that you will be inspired to dig deeper into the incredible richness of the Gospel and the truth about the God that we believe in.

Thank you for joining us!

Adrian Wright

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died,
and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again
from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty.
From there 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. Amen.



2 TIMOTHY 2:15

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

SESSION 1: The Father

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

I Believe

Even though this creed has been recited by groups of Christians over the centuries, usually in the context of corporate worship, it still comes down to a _____ declaration of faith. This is because in order for faith to be real it must be your own. There is no other way to be in a _____ with God except through personal faith in Him and in the work of Jesus.

What is Faith?

The original Greek word translated here as the phrase “I believe” meant more than just believing in God. It meant believing _____ God. This kind of faith is more than an opinion you hold about something, it means to God and to live in a relation of _____ to Him.

Who is our faith in?

The simple answer is that our faith is in God, specifically the God of _____

How do we know this God?

How can we as finite beings come to know the infinite and almighty Creator of heaven and earth in a personal way? It seems like an impossible task, doesn't it? Yet we can know God through His _____ which is a fancy way of saying that we can know God through what He has told us about Himself. God wants us to know Him, and more than that, to love Him, because He loves us.

GOD HAS REVEALED HIMSELF IN TWO MAIN WAYS:

1. General Revelation:

General revelation of God basically means that God is evident in _____.

Psalms 19:1-4

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

Romans 1:20

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

2. Special Revelation:

Special revelation is the specific way in which God has revealed Himself to people, through the Holy Spirit, His declarations in the Old Testament, scripture, and most importantly, through _____.

Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

God has a Name

God's name Yahweh or Jehovah means _____. This tells us that God is eternal, uncreated, and all-powerful. He exists completely of His own accord.

Exodus 3:13-14

Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I am has sent me to you.'"

God also described Himself to Moses:

Exodus 34:5-7

The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty."

We see here that God reveals Himself as both _____ and _____.

When Jesus sent His disciples out into the world to share the good news of the gospel and to make disciples of all nations, he showed us something very important about God:

Matthew 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

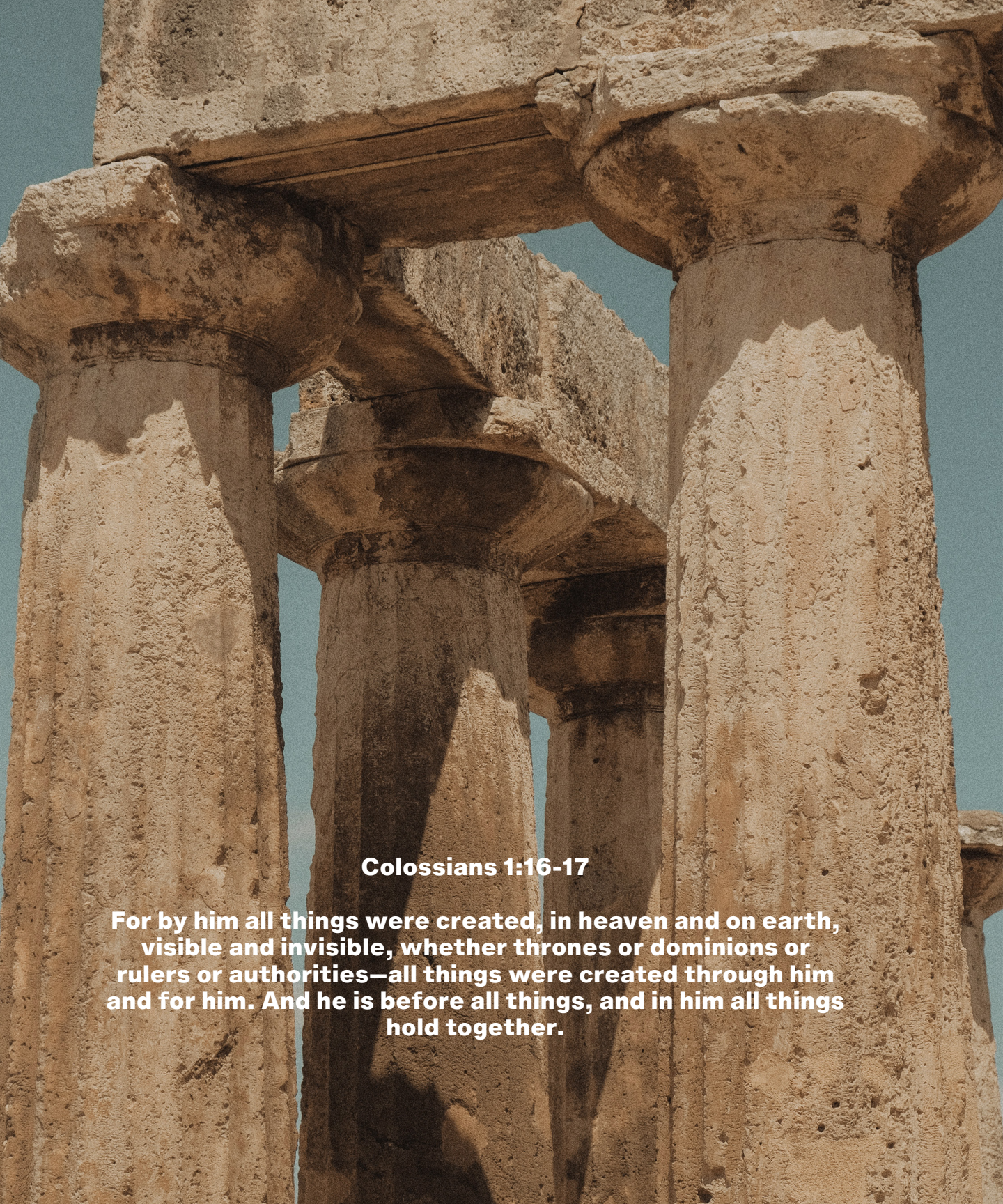
When Jesus describes God's name He uses the singular word _____ to describe the _____ separate parts of God that are all fully God and fully united. This is known as the _____. And so we see that God is a triune God made up of God the _____, God the _____, and God the _____.

God is eternal

God is the only uncreated person in existence. He has always existed and will always exist. He is self-sufficient and the Prime Mover of all things.

Revelation 1:8

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."



Colossians 1:16-17

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

WHAT CAN WE INFER ABOUT GOD FROM HIS CREATION?

He must be supernatural (created space and time)

He must be powerful (incredibly)

He must be eternal (self-existent)

He must be omnipresent (if He created space and time can't be limited by it)

He must be timeless and changeless (He created time)

He must be personal (the impersonal cannot create personality)

He must be infinite and singular (you cannot have two infinities)

He must be diverse yet have unity (unity and diversity exist in nature)

He must be intelligent (supremely - only a cognitive being can produce cognitive beings)

He must be purposeful (He deliberately created everything)

He must be moral (no moral law can be held without a giver)

He must be caring (or no moral laws would have been given)

THE GOD OF THE BIBLE IS REVEALED IN SCRIPTURE AND THROUGH HIS ACTS IN HISTORY TO POSSESS EVERY ONE OF THESE QUALITIES (AND MANY MORE).

Philippians 2:10

So that at the name
of Jesus every
knee should bow, in
heaven and on earth
and under the earth.

SESSION 2: JESUS CHRIST HIS SON

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

The centrepiece of our faith

What separates our faith from any other belief in the world is that we believe that God sent His own Son to the world to redeem people from their sins.

The Name of Jesus

“Jesus” means and “Christ” means the One of God. Jesus is therefore the Saviour-King who died to save us and was resurrected and was exalted to the right hand of God, where He now rules all things.

In the Old Testament people were anointed for three separate roles: Prophet, Priest, and King. Jesus is the “One” and is the fulness of all of these.

Prophet: We were ignorant - Jesus is the Saviour-Prophet declaring God’s will and plan for our lives.

Priest: We were Separated from God - Jesus is the Saviour-Priest reconciling us with the Father and atoning for our sins.

King: We are weak - Jesus is the Saviour King who guides us, protects us and provides for us as His people.

John 1:1-4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Fully God, fully man

Jesus was born into this world as fully God, while at the same time he was fully human. This is known as the Hypostatic . As both God and man, Jesus was able to reconcile mankind with the Father. While on earth he was limited to space and , and experienced hunger, thirst, pain and suffering like any person.

The descent of Jesus

Philippians 2:8

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

1. Born of a Virgin

Jesus entered this world in a way that God had foretold centuries before through the prophet Isaiah:

Isaiah 7:14

