

# Creeds

By and Based on the Books of Robert J. Cormier ([www.thefaithkit.org](http://www.thefaithkit.org))  
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# Creeds

## A One Sentence Creed

We believe in heaven, love, and God's plan.

## A Two Sentence Creed

We believe in heaven, love, and God's plan. And we believe that we were made to be a family.

## “The Good News”: A Summary

God made us for life with Him.

God loves us, and all we need to do is love Him back.

God is working with us through everything He sends into our lives to prepare us for our life with Him.

## A Practical Creed

God made us for life in heaven.

The way to heaven is a life of faith and love.

God guides us according to His plan for everything He sends into our lives.

We are going to share heaven as a family where all of us are going to be richer for the holiness of each of us.

Jesus was sent to teach the truth, to found the Church, and to accept the cross on which he taught and showed us love.

The Eucharist is the meal we share to be God's family, and it is also God's way to show us again and again the love He showed us first on the cross.

The rest of the life of Jesus was planned to show us that faith can conquer any adversity.

## An Historical Creed

God always was, and this explains everything.

Out of love, God decided to share His life with us, and to allow us to help Him make us who we will be.

Out of nothing, God created the universe and put into action a plan that would lead to our appearance on earth.

God's plan led to the rise of many peoples, and He chose one for a particular mission.

Patently His plan formed His chosen people and prepared them to receive His beloved Son.

Finally He sent His Son to teach us that we, too, are His children, and to show us what to do so we will be able to receive all He wants to give us.

Born of Mary and given the name Jesus, God's Son grew in wisdom and love before taking up his mission.

When finally he was ready he proclaimed the truth in word and deed.

He stirred the envy of those who knew less, and he was threatened with death.

He did not run, had one last supper with certain of his followers, was arrested, tortured, and put to death.

He appeared to these same followers after his death; and this confirmed all he taught and commissioned them to carry on his mission.

These, the apostles, founded the Church according to God's plan, and God's plan continues to guide the Church so that, through many necessary struggles, it will form us as the family best prepared to share God's life.

## Ten Articles of Faith

1. We believe in God, the supreme being from whom all things come. We believe that God is rightfully spoken of as a person, a person of love.
2. We believe that God is more than one person as we are persons. He is more than what one person alone can know.
3. We believe that God made us to share His life in heaven.
4. We believe that we are here on earth so that God could give us more, participation in our own creation, the opportunity to become our own person. This we do by growing in love. This we do by loving.
5. We believe that, by means of His plan for everything that happens to us, God is working with us, to make us the family we need to be to share His life in its fullness.
6. We believe that, in heaven, we are going to share God's life as a family where all of us are going to be richer for the holiness of each of us.
7. We believe that, here on earth, we are called to be a family in faith, a Church, one Church.
8. We believe that to found His Church God sent Jesus. Jesus was the Son sent to teach us that we, too, are God's children, made of His love. To demonstrate that, in making us, God has given of His very self, Jesus gave up his life on the cross. To demonstrate that he, indeed, is the Son of God, Jesus appeared to his apostles after his death.
9. We believe that God intends His Church to be a hierarchy whose head is the pope, the successor of Saint Peter.
10. We believe that God intends to speak through the sacraments, the sacred signs He has given the Church. Most sacred is the Eucharist, the sign by which He re-presents the love He showed us first on the cross.

## What Is Faith?

What is faith? In its most developed form, faith is a deeply personal relationship with God. In its simplest form, however, faith is the way we explain our life. Guided by what the human spirit has already decided, the simplest form of this explanation consists of the following three basic ideas:

Heaven: We exist because God, who does not need to be explained, decided to share His life.

Love: We are here, in this world, to participate in our own creation. God is giving each of us the opportunity to become our own person. This is the reason that we are born unformed, unknowing, and utterly self-centered, and we are called to grow. We are called to grow in the faith that inspires the love which makes us more like God, and prepares us to share God's life as richly as we might.

God's plan: In the act of creation, God put into action a plan for everything that would ever happen, including all the events of all of our lives. He did this knowing how we would respond to these events. In this way, we become the people God wants us to be, while, in the process, each of us still becomes our own person.

## We Believe...

We believe in God, and that God made us to live with Him forever in heaven.

We believe that we are here, in this world, to participate in our own creation. God is giving each of us the opportunity to become our own person. This is the reason that we are born unformed, unknowing, and utterly self-centered, and we are called to grow. We are called to grow in the faith that inspires the love which makes us more like God, and prepares us to share God's life as richly as we might.

But, even though we are here to participate in our own creation, it is clear that we do not choose everything that forms us as the persons we will be. No one chooses their parents, their birthday, where they are born, and countless other things that affect mightily who they become. To us it is also

obvious that God did not make us only to leave us at the mercy of what might happen. Rather, in the act of creation, God put into action a plan for everything that would ever happen, including all the events of all of our lives. He did this knowing how we would respond to these events. In this way, we become the people God wants us to be, while, in the process, each of us still becomes our own person.

And there is one more basic thing that we believe. God's plan is making us the people, the family He wants us to be. In heaven, we are going to be together. There, just as happens here, especially when people love one another, the goodness of one is going to bring good into the lives of others. In heaven, this means that all of us are going to be richer for the holiness of each of us. And each of us has our job in the formation of our family. This is what we think of when God's plan asks someone to live a short or faithless life. In the end, we will see what God was doing, and we will be glad.

## I Believe...

I believe in God because everything in and around me says to me, "I must have come from somewhere."

I believe in heaven because I cannot imagine that God gave us life only to take it away.

I believe that love is the way to heaven because love is obviously the best thing that we can grow into, and it makes sense to me that God would give us an opportunity to be involved in our own creation—it's better for us if we are.

I believe that God has a plan for everything that happens because I cannot imagine a God who doesn't, and it looks like a brilliant way for God to make us the people He wants us to be while still involving us in our own creation.

I believe that we were made to be a family because I recognize that my life is owed to human history, and because believing that we are going to share God's life as a family makes sense of God's plan for human history.

I am a Christian because I believe that Jesus' teachings, and the story of Jesus' life, speak for God better than anything else I have ever heard—or

expect to hear—and because I recognize that if God had not sent someone to speak for Him, there is no way we would ever feel called to be one family in faith.

I am a Catholic because I believe that the Church is the family in faith that Jesus called us to be, and I believe THAT because no other church sees our unity as essential, and no other church has a structure that allows it to provide teachings that make sense to our times.

## A Commentary on the Nicene Creed

*We believe in one God*—we have no reason to believe in more than one, but we have enormous reason to believe in the one there is.

*the Father, the Almighty*—our loving provider, and He who can do anything that can be done, a great thing in a provider.

*maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen*—and this is how we experience Him even though He is unseen.

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ*—in other words, we are not looking for any more revelations; we are not in need of any more information in order to have a living faith.

*eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God*—in other words, he is made of God's own love, as are we.

*Through him all things were made*—in other words, creation was designed with his life, death, and resurrection in mind.

*For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven*—in other words, his whole life was crafted to teach us what we need to know.

*by the power of the holy spirit, he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man*—in other words, God's plan conceived Jesus.

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered, died, and was buried*—to show us that God understands everything we go through, and even suffers with us.

*on the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures*—actually, despite the desire to say that Jesus rose three days later in fulfillment of certain Old Testament prophecies, this is not what the New Testament reports. This indicates an overriding memory of what the New Testament does report.

*he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father*—and so we can pray to him now.

*He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end*—in other words, at the end of time God will make of us the family that we were meant to be.

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, with the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified*—in other words, God is a family; He is more than one person we are persons.

*He has spoken through the prophets*—in other words, God's plan was at work from the beginning.

*We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church*—in other words, since we were made to be family, we are called to be a Church, one Church, one family in faith.

*We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins*—in other words, God did indeed ordain certain actions to speak for Him.

*We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come*—absolutely.

Amen.