



THE APOSTLES' CREED



I BELIEVE

IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, CREATOR
OF HEAVEN AND EARTH. I BELIEVE IN JESUS
CHRIST, HIS ONLY SON, OUR LORD.

HE WAS CONCEIVED BY THE POWER OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT AND BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY.

HE SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE, WAS

CRUC

RIED.

HE DESCEN

THE THIRD

DAY HE

ED INTO

HEAVEN AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND

OF THE FATHER. HE WILL COME AGAIN 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.

Alister McGrath

AMEN.



The new Christians are led into the water. They are asked: “Do you believe in God the Father Almighty?” They reply “I believe!” And they are plunged down into the water and raised up again. They are asked a second question: “Do you believe in Christ Jesus, the Son of God, who was born of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was crucified under Pontius Pilate and was dead and buried and on the third day rose alive from the dead and ascended into the heavens?”

- On the Apostolic Tradition, quoted in Myers, The Apostles Creed



Again they confess “I believe!” and are immersed in the water. They are then asked a third question: “Do you believe in the Holy Spirit and the holy church and the resurrection of the flesh?” Again they say “I believe” and are immersed a third time.

- On the Apostolic Tradition, quoted in Myers, The Apostles Creed



*I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.*



⁴...we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— ⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.



By the Spirit we are immersed into the life of Jesus so that we come to share in his position before God... Jesus is God's child by nature, and we become God's children by grace. Jesus is born of God; we are adopted. So when we confess that God is 'Father,' it is not a theological idea but a confession of the defining relationship of our lives.

- Ben Myers, *The Apostles' Creed*



For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”



Are you a slave or a son? Do you...

- **Lack a vital daily intimacy with God**
- **Feel spiritually discouraged and defeated**
- **Tend to be motivated by obligation and duty, not love**
- **Frequently compare yourself with others**
- **Lack confidence in approaching God in prayer or worship**
- **Feel powerless to defeat the flesh**



A child does not always address his father as ‘father’; he uses terms such as ‘Papa, ‘Dad.’ That is the kind of meaning represented by this word ‘Abba.’ It was a word lisped by a little child... A little child has confidence. He does not analyze it... he knows that ‘Abba’ is his father. Grown-ups may be standing back at a distance and being very formal [with some great person]; but the little child... rushes right in, and holds onto his father’s legs. He has a right that no one else has.



Are you a slave or a son? Do you...

- **Enjoy real, daily communion with God**
- **Live in forgiveness and freedom**
- **Experience contentment and happiness in Christ**
- **Have the ability to confess your faults and admit your weaknesses**
- **Manifest a deep reliance on the Holy Spirit**
- **Have growing victory over sin and the flesh**



If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. This... [should be] the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life... [Adoption] is the highest privilege the gospel offers.



If there is no Maker of heaven and earth, then...

1. There is no meaning in life (because it's all a random accident)
2. There is no beauty (because beauty is purposeful)
3. There is no morality (because no ought from is)
4. There is no human glory (because no image of God)



*They taught us kids in school
between the recess breaks
That the universe just sorta fell together
like a Big Mistake
It started with a bang
that sent the pieces flying
Then it cooled and twirled into dinosaurs and dandelions*

- David Wilcox, "Big Mistake"



*It was a Big Mistake to have eyes that see
To have love like this inside of me
To have lips that smile as I swim your kiss
To have minds that will forever every part of this
And the moonlight shrouded in the clouds above and
The autumn leaves and the falling love
The still reflection in the moonlit lake
All, they said, it was a big mistake*