

Credo

Lesson 1, for Sunday September 9, 2001

Credo - Latin for “*I believe.*”

“Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.” - Matthew 10:32-33, NAS

But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” - that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. - Romans 10:8-10, NAS

The Outline

A. The Baptismal Confession

1. Taught to catechumens
2. Kept as an orally transmitted secret
3. Withheld even from catechumens until end of instruction
4. Memorized and recited at baptism
5. The Apostles' Creed is the Roman (Western) result

B. The Creed as Statements of Faith

1. Formal expression of the One True Faith
2. Developed to summarize the Truth
3. Changed to meet new challenges
4. Each new phrase addressed a controversy
5. Formal expression of the One True Faith

C. The Ecumenical Creeds - Catholic and Eastern

1. Exact correctness as a defense against heresies
2. Authoritative interpretation of the One True Faith
3. Fully state the truth as Dogma
4. Developed at the ecumenical councils
(first four accepted by the western church)
 - Nicea I - 325
 - Rejected Arianism
 - Arius taught that the Christ was a created being.
 - Adopted original Nicene Creed
 - Constantinople I - 381
 - Rejected Arianism again
 - Adopted revised Nicene Creed
 - Ephesus - 431
 - Rejected Nestorianism, Apollinarianism
 - Signed creed of agreement
 - Question: who and what is Jesus?
 - Chalcedon - 451
 - Rejected Eutychianism
 - Adopted Creed of Chalcedon
 - Question: who and what is Jesus? (reprise)
 - Outcome engineered by Leo of Rome

D. The Evangelical Lutheran Confessions of Faith

Note that not all synods accept all of the following:

1. The Three Chief Symbols
 - The Apostles' Creed
 - The Nicene Creed
 - The Athanasian Creed
2. The Augsburg Confession - 1530
3. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession - 1531
4. The Smalcald Articles - 1537
5. Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope - 1537
6. The Small Catechism - 1529
7. The Large Catechism - 1529
8. The Formula of Concord - 1577