

I believe in God the Father

Intro: The Apostle's Creed

I. I believe in...

- i) It's 'I' not 'we'
- ii) Belief = knowledge + assent + trust
- iii) It's belief 'in' not 'that'

Implications:

- a) Belief is essential

'If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord & believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes & is justified, & with the mouth one confesses & is saved.'

Romans 10:9-10

- b) Belief is imperfect

'Lord I believe, help my unbelief.'

Mark 9:24

II. ... God the Father Almighty...

- i) God the Father – in creation & in salvation

- a) In creation / nature, God is the Father of all

'God made from one man every nation of mankind... for 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we are his offspring.'

Acts 17:25, 28

- b) In salvation / grace, God is the Father of some

'To all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.'

John 1:12

- ii) God the Almighty – God can do all things in line with his nature & will

'Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.'

Psalms 115:3

NB. God cannot do the illogical or immoral (e.g. Titus 1:2) or deny his own nature.

Implications:

- a) Be a *good* child & *imitate* your Father in heaven (1 Peter 1:16-17; Mt 5:43-48)

b) Be a *bold* child & *pray* to your Father in heaven (Eph 2:18; Luke 11:5-13)

c) Be a *confident* child & *trust* your Father in heaven (Matt 6:30-34; Jn 10:29)

III. ... Creator of heaven & earth

i) As Creator, God is the rightful Lord of all

'The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof... for he has founded it upon the seas.'

Psalm 24:1-2

ii) As Creator, God is worthy of all glory

'Worthy are you, our Lord & God, to receive glory & honour & power, for you created all things, & by your will they existed & were created.'

Revelation 4:11

Implications:

a) Don't follow the world but do obey your Creator's commands

'Your hands have made & fashioned me; give me understanding that I may learn your commandments.'

Psalm 119:73

b) Don't trust in man, but do entrust yourself to your faithful Creator

'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man.'

Psalm 118:8

'Therefore, let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.'

4:19

1 Peter