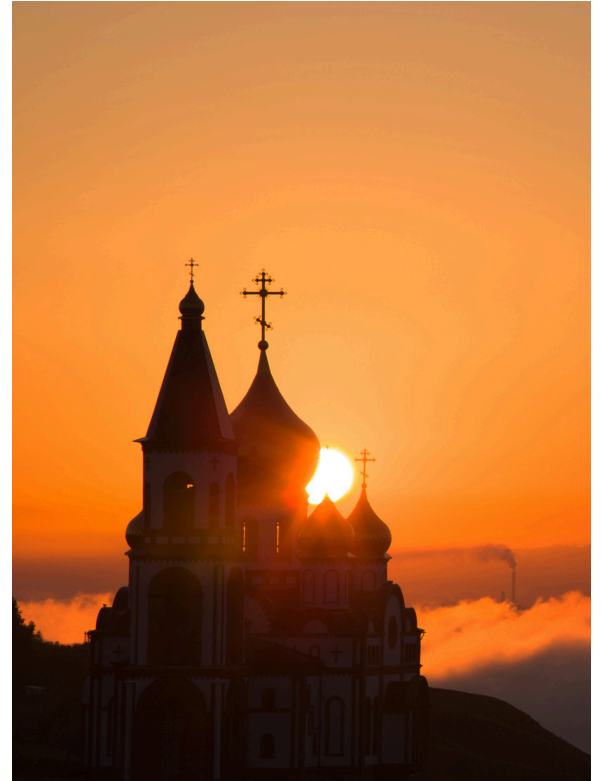


A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a brown jacket and a sweater, stands in a classroom. He is pointing his right index finger towards the text on a green chalkboard. The chalkboard has the title 'BACK TO BASICS: CHRISTIANITY 101' written on it in white, stylized capital letters. The background shows a window with multiple panes on the left and wooden desks in the foreground.

BACK TO BASICS: CHRISTIANITY 101

PREFACE: THE CREEDS AND CONFESSIONS

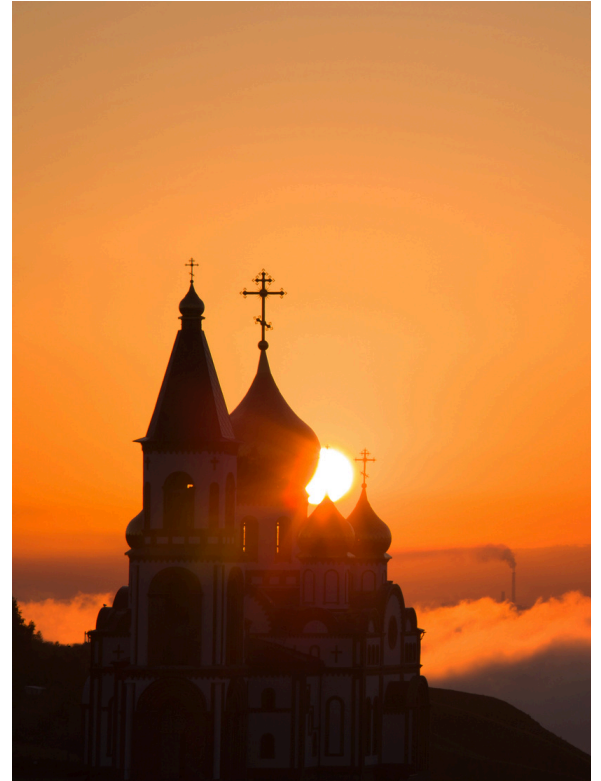
How do we as
Christians
express what
we believe in a
way that's
simple and easy
to understand?



3 Ecumenical Creeds

- Apostles Creed (2nd Century)
- Nicene Creed* (4th century)
- Athanasian Creed (5th century)

These 3 creeds express the core doctrines of our faith that are shared across denominations.



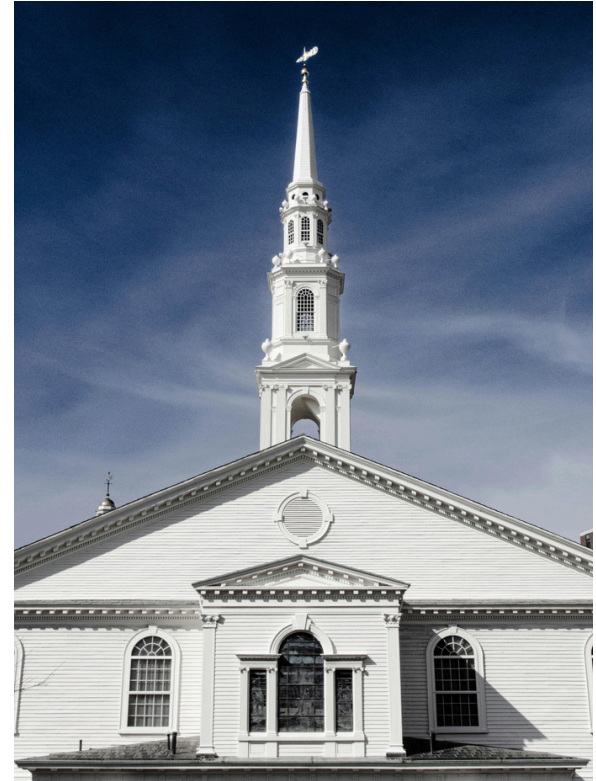
Denominational Confessions

We are a **Baptist Church**, and rely on two main Baptist Confessions of faith.

- 1689 London Baptist Confession
- Baptist Faith and Message (2000)

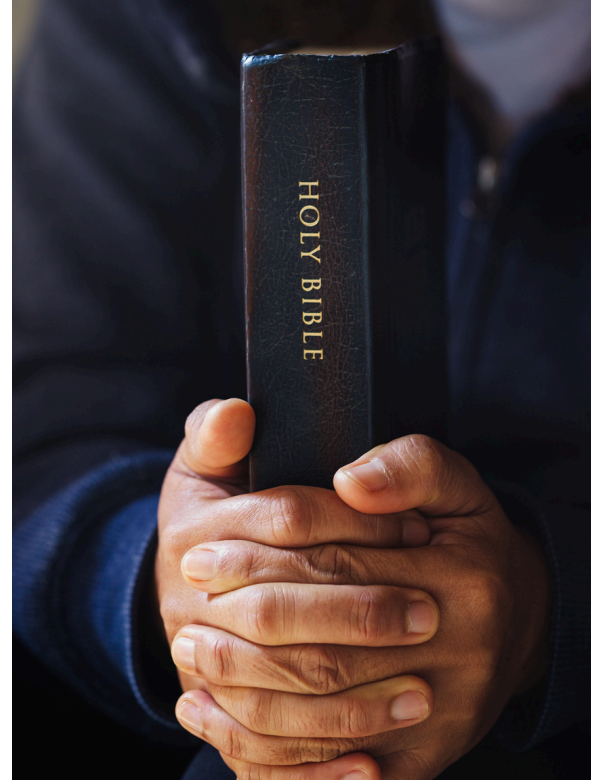
Our church's statement of faith is derived from the Baptist Faith and Message.

Baptists come from the **radical reformation** - either out of the Anabaptists or the Church of England, wanting to go farther than the Lutherans and Reformed and purge the church of more Catholic practices - including baptizing babies.



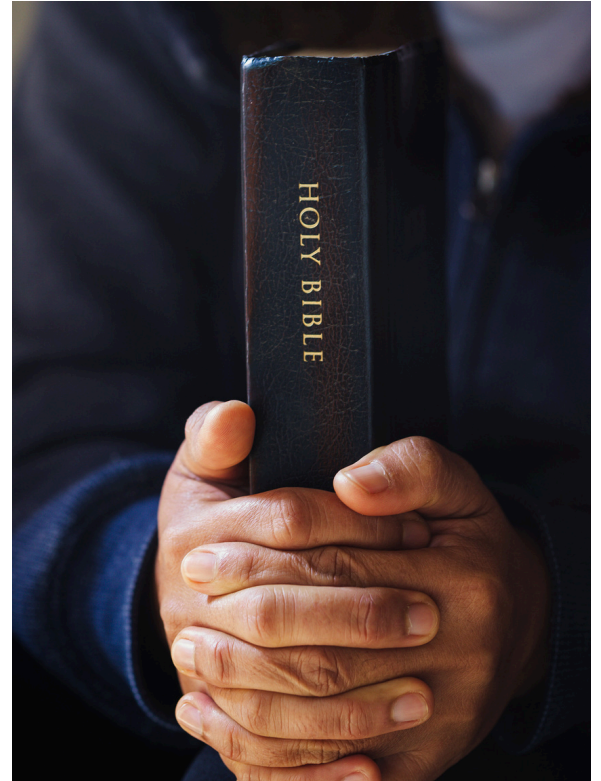
Creeds and Confessions

What about
Scripture
alone? Why do
we need these
creeds and
confessions?



Scriptural Basis

All 3 Ecumenical Creeds and the 2 denominational confessions we use are derived from the Bible. While language in the creeds may not be found in Scripture (e.g., Trinity, Consubstantial), they communicate Biblical truths, which gives them credibility.



The Nicene Creed

- Also known as the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed, since it was revised in Constantinople in 381 to include additional info on the Holy Spirit.
- Said liturgically (in the service) by nearly every denomination
- Universal statement of faith for Christians



The Nicene Creed

- In 313, Constantine issued the Edict of Milan shortly after becoming a Christian, making the religion legal in the Roman Empire.
- In 325, Constantine called a council with all the bishops (elders) across the Roman Empire to unite them doctrinally
- One priest named Arius claimed that Jesus was created: "There was a time where the Son was not".



The Nicene Creed

- Jesus was affirmed as fully God, in accordance with the Scriptures, by the majority of the bishops
- Arius and his followers were kicked out
- Nicene Creed was written to clarify true Christian beliefs and safeguard against Arian heresy
- Every part of the creed is straight from Scripture



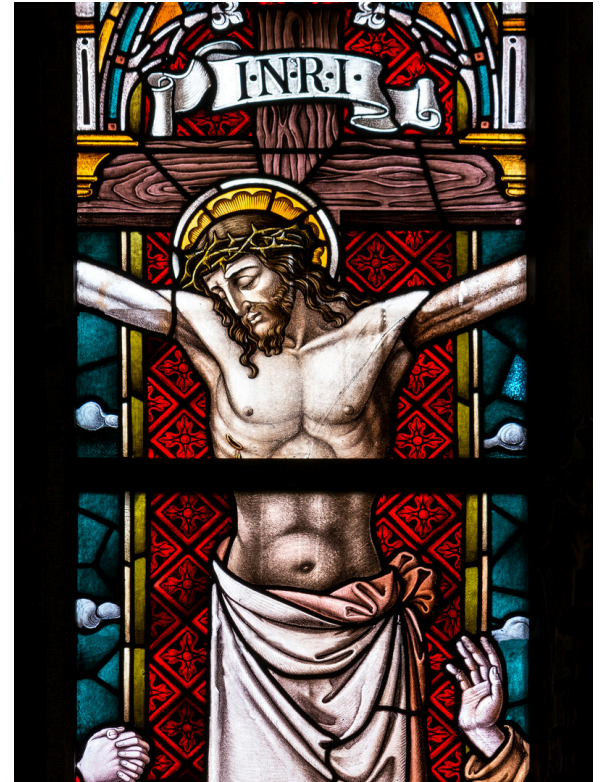
"We believe in..the Father almighty"

- Affirms monotheism: "We believe in **one** God"
- Acknowledges the Father as the creator of all things, a divine attribute that only God has



"...in one Lord Jesus Christ"

- **"Lord"**: Jesus is Master over all creation
- **"God from God..."**: Written in response to Arius. Jesus is fully God, equal to the Father, sharing His divine essence
- **"through Him, all things were made"**: Jesus is co-creator with the Father, showing His full divinity
- Also outlines Jesus' earthly mission and His second coming



"...in the Holy Spirit"

- **"Lord":** Just like Jesus, the Spirit is master over all creation
- **"Giver of Life":** Along with the Father and the Son, the Spirit creates and sustains life
- **"Is worshipped and glorified":** God alone is to be worshipped, and He shares His glory with no one. Thus, the Spirit is truly God.



“one holy catholic apostolic church”

- These are the **four marks** of the church: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic
- “Catholic” does not refer to Roman Catholic; it just means “universal”



Our hope as Christians

- The creed ends by discussing baptism, forgiveness of sins, and the hope we have of eternal life in the new world with God our Saviour.



Encouragement

- Using creeds may be new to you. However, this is **not** a replacement for Holy Scripture, but an aid and a tool to understand it better.
- Use it as a guide to ensure your theology concerning the basics of Christianity are correct.



The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again with glory
to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life.
He proceeds from the Father [and the Son],
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
He spoke through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come. Amen.



Additional Resources

- [The Apostles Creed](#)
- [The Nicene Creed](#)
- [The Athanasian Creed](#)
- [1689 Baptist Confession](#)
- [Baptist Faith and Message](#)
- <https://www.aomin.org/aoblog/reformed-baptist-issues/the-nicene-creed-is-primarily-based-on-scripture/> (breaks Nicene Creed down line by line with Bible references)

