

Questions for Further Reflection – The Apostles Creed

1. Why was it necessary for Christians to eventually settle on a concise explanation of the essentials of the faith? Why is it important for the church and for individual believers to maintain continuity with the faith of early Christians? To what extent do the convictions of the early Christians enrich your own convictions? To what extent do they challenge your own convictions?
2. Of all the phrases in the Apostles Creed, which do you think matters most to the church? Which one matters most to you, personally? Why? Of all the phrases in the Apostles Creed, are there any you think you think could be left out and the creed would still retain its importance? Are there any phrases you have a hard time personally professing belief in? Why?
3. Most people have the traditional version of the creed memorized. Sometimes, however, we use the more modern ecumenical version in worship. Read that version:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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. Amen.

How is this translation similar from the traditional translation? How is it different? How do the differences influence your understanding of the creed? Are there any parts you would say differently? Are there any parts you would change back to the original? Which version do you prefer? Why?