

THE APOSTLES' CREED: GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY
Psalm 8:1–9

What do we confess in the first line of the Apostles' Creed?

First, we confess that **we believe in God**: “I believe in God.” But perhaps we should ask, **Why do we believe in God?**

- 1 Cor 2:14–15a: “The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things.” See also 1 Cor 1.
- Heb 11:6: “without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him”).
- The evidence shows its value in light of the larger Christian commitment (cf. WCF 1).

Second, the creed focuses our attention on **what we believe**: “I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.”

Two descriptions of God in this statement:

1. Father
 - a. God's relationship to Christ.
 - b. God's special relationship to his people:
 - i. Isa 64:8: “Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.”
 - ii. Eph 1:6: “In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.”
 - iii. 1 John 3:1: “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God.”
 - c. Creator/source (cf. “maker of heaven and earth”). 1 Cor 8:6: “yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live.”

2. Almighty

- a. Rev 19:6: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.”
- b. Rev 16:7: “Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments.”
- c. Heidelberg Catechism 27—“What dost thou mean by the providence of God? The almighty and everywhere present power of God; whereby, as it were by his hand, he upholds and governs heaven, earth, and all creatures; so that herbs and grass, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, meat and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, yea, and all things come, not by chance, but by his fatherly hand.”

Finally, the creed gives an example of **one of God’s works that highlights these descriptions** of God: “maker of heaven and earth.”

- “By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible” (Heb 11:2).
- Creation has great significance:¹
 - It answers the question of where we came from.
 - It teaches us that matter is not eternal, only God is eternal.
 - It teaches us the Creator/creature distinction.
 - It teaches us the goodness of creation.
 - It teaches us the basis of beauty.
 - It teaches us the basis for morality.
 - It teaches us the basis for worship.

Heidelberg Catechism 28—“What advantage is it to us to know that God has created, and by his providence doth still uphold all things? That we may be patient in adversity; thankful in prosperity; and that in all things, which may hereafter befall us, we place our firm trust in our faithful God and Father, that nothing shall separate us from his love; since all creatures are so in his hand, that without his will they cannot so much as move.”

¹ The following points are taken from Charles Barrett, sermon notes on the Apostles’ Creed.