

THE APOSTLES' CREED: INTRODUCTION
2 Tim 4:1-5

Common objections to creeds:

- Don't Protestants believe in the Bible alone?
- Does using creeds lead to formalistic worship? What prevents an unbeliever from reciting a creed?
- Doesn't a focus on doctrine divide Christians and kill the warmth of a church?

What are creeds?

- Statements of faith that summarize the main points of Christian belief common to all Christians.¹
- Three ecumenical creeds: Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian.
- Creeds provide the foundational doctrines and non-negotiables of the Christian faith.

Introduction to the Apostles' Creed

- Written by the Apostles?
- Use in the early church and beyond.
- Simple structure: Trinity (savior) and church, judgment, resurrection (salvation).

¹ Alister McGrath, *Historical Theology: An Introduction to the History of Christian Thought* (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 1998), 30.