

# **Christian Foundations**

**A Christian Foundations Series**

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**This belongs to:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **A Christian Foundations Series**

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# Christian Foundations

## Lesson 1

# Who Is Jesus?

This lesson belongs to: \_\_\_\_\_

# Lesson 1

## Who Is Jesus?

**Key Verse:** *“But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches any other Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted---you may well put up with it!” 2 Corinthians 11:3-4*

**Purpose:** The purpose of this lesson is to help the disciple gain a Scriptural understanding of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### The Way, Truth, and Life

In John 14:6, Jesus says, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”* Jesus claimed to be the only way to the Father. In regard to our salvation, we are never called upon to believe in a certain teaching, philosophy, worldview, religion, or cultural preference to obtain eternal life. We are called to believe in a Person. That Person is Jesus Christ. Truth is not a teaching; Truth is a Person! Once we receive Jesus as TRUTH Himself, then all that He teaches is truth by virtue of that reality. Therefore the question, “Who is Jesus?” is of utmost importance. Who Jesus is determines the framework from which to interpret all that He says.

#### 1. It is important to believe in the REAL Jesus

Many religions embrace a “Jesus” who is very different from the Jesus of the Bible. Compare just a few common beliefs about Jesus held today [from a pamphlet entitled “Christianity, Cults, & Religions” (Rose Publishing, Torrance, CA)]:

- **Biblical Christianity:** Jesus is God, the second Person of the Trinity. He has always existed and was never created. He is fully God and fully man. As the second Person of the Trinity He is coequal with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. As a man He was begotten by the Holy Spirit through the virgin Mary. Jesus is the only way to the Father, salvation, and eternal life. He died physically on the cross according to the plan of God. He rose from the dead on the third day, spiritually and physically immortal. For the next 40 days He was seen by over 500 eyewitnesses. His wounds were touched and He ate meals. He physically ascended to Heaven. Jesus will come again visibly and physically at the end of the world to establish God’s kingdom and judge the world.
- **Mormonism:** Jesus is a separate God from the Father (Elohim). He was created as a spirit child by the Father and Mother in Heaven, and is the “elder brother” of all men and spirit beings. His body was created through a sexual union between Elohim and Mary. Jesus was married.
- **Jehovah Witnesses:** Jesus is not God. Before he lived on earth, he was Michael, the archangel. Jehovah made the universe through him. On earth he was a man who lived a perfect life. After dying on a stake (not a cross), he was resurrected as a spirit; he was destroyed. Jesus is not coming again; he “returned” invisibly in 1914 in spirit. Very soon, he and the angels will destroy all non-Jehovah’s Witnesses.
- **Oneness Pentecostalism:** The “Oneness Doctrine” (“modalism”) denies the doctrine of Christ in Biblical and early Christianity. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not “Persons” within the Godhead, but are different “manifestations” of God. Jesus is the Father and thus, the Father is Jesus. The “Son of God” has not always existed, refers to the flesh body of Jesus on the earth, and is not eternal. As the Father, Jesus sent himself as the Son, prayed to himself as the Father, was obedient to himself as the Father, died on the cross as the Son, was exalted back to himself as the Father, and sent Himself again as the Holy Spirit. In order to be saved one must believe that Jesus is the Father, be water baptized specifically “in the name of Jesus”, and “receive the Holy Ghost” with the evidence of speaking in other tongues.
- **Christian Science:** Jesus was not the Christ, but a man who displayed the Christ idea. (“Christ” means perfection, not a person.) Jesus was not God, and God can never become man or flesh. He did not suffer

and could not suffer for sins. He did not die on the cross. He was not resurrected physically. He will not literally come back.

- **Scientology:** Jesus is rarely mentioned in Scientology. Jesus was not the Creator, and not an “operating thetan” (in control of supernatural powers, cleared from mental defects). Jesus did not die for sins.
- **New Age:** Jesus is not the one true God. He is not a savior but a spiritual model, and guru, and is now an “ascended master.” He was a New Ager who tapped into divine power in the same way that anyone can. Many believe he went east to India or Tibet and learned mystical truths. He did not rise physically, but “rose” into a higher spiritual realm.
- **Judaism:** Jesus is seen either as an extremist false messiah or a good but martyred Jewish rabbi (teacher). Judaism does not recognize Jesus to be the Messiah, the Son of God, and they do not believe that he rose from the dead.
- **Hinduism:** Jesus is a teacher, a guru, or an incarnation of Vishnu. He is a son of God as are others. His death does not atone for sins and he did not rise from the dead.
- **Hare Krishna:** Jesus is not important. He is usually thought of as an enlightened vegetarian teacher who taught meditation. He is not an incarnation of God. Some hold that Christ is Krishna.
- **Transcendental Meditation (T.M.):** Jesus is not uniquely God. Like all persons, Jesus had a divine essence. Unlike most, he discovered it. Christ didn’t suffer and couldn’t suffer for people’s sins.
- **Buddhism:** Jesus is not part of this belief. Buddhists in the West generally view Jesus as an enlightened man.
- **Islam:** Jesus is one of up to 124,000 prophets sent by God to various cultures. Abraham, Moses, and Muhammad are others. Jesus was born of a virgin but is not the Son of God. He was sinless but was not divine or God Himself. He was not crucified (he ascended to heaven without dying). He is referred to as messiah and ayatollah. Jesus will return in the future to live and die.
- **Baha’I World Faith:** Jesus is one of many manifestations of God. Each manifestation supersedes the previous, giving new teaching about God. Jesus, who superseded Moses, was superseded by Muhammad, and most recently by the greatest, Baha’u’llah (“Glory of Allah”). Jesus is not God and did not rise from the dead. He is not the only way to God. Jesus has returned to earth in the form of Baha’u’llah.

## 2. The Bible teaches that there is only ONE God

- Deuteronomy 6:4 (Shema) *"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!"* (This is the creed of Judaism. **The Lord** is a translation of the Hebrew "**Yahweh**", but later the Jews substituted the word "**Adonai**"("my Lord") since they considered **Yahweh** too sacred to be pronounced. The word **God** here is used in its plural form ("**Elohim**") in the Hebrew text. Thus, "**The Lord our God, the Lord is one!**" could be translated "**Yahweh our Elohim** (plural form), **Yahweh is one!**" This likely emphasizes the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, three Persons of the same substance in the one Godhead. This understanding would not have been apparent to the people of the Old Testament).
- Deuteronomy 32:39 *"There is no God beside Me."*
- Isaiah 43:10 *"Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me."*
- Isaiah 44:6 *"Beside Me there is no God."*
- James 2:19 "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!"

## 3. Although God is one God, He has revealed Himself in the PLURAL

- The plurality of God can be seen in the very NAME of God (Elohim) The name ELOHIM is found 2,700 times in the Old Testament and is a uni-plural noun that literally means “Gods.” It is translated in that manner 239 times (Genesis 3:5; Exodus 22:28, etc.)
- Genesis 1:1 *"In the beginning God"* (“Elohim” is plural of “El”-God)
- Genesis 1:26 *"Let US make man in OUR image, according to OUR likeness."* He is not talking to the angels when in Genesis 1:1-3 we see God, the Spirit, and the Light. The word “Elohim” is a uni-plural noun.
- Genesis 3:22 “Then the Lord God (Elohim) said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of US, to know good and evil.’” Who knows good and evil? God (Elohim)
- Genesis 3:5 The serpent said to Eve, “God (Elohim) knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God (Elohim), knowing good and evil.”
- Genesis 11:7 *"Come, let US go down and there confuse their language..."*
- The singular form of the name of God (Eloha) is used twenty five times in the Bible, examples being Deuteronomy 32:15-17 and Habakkuk 3:3. Moses could have very easily used the singular form when talking about God. But he didn’t. The plural form is used 2,500 times in the Bible.

- Why is the name plural? Because there are three that bear witness in heaven: The Father, the Word (Jesus the Son), and the Spirit. (1 John 5:7) And these three are one.
- Genesis 19:24 “And the Lord rained upon Sodom and Gomorrah FROM THE LORD out of heaven.” (Two distinct persons here; see Amos 4:10-11)
- Psalm 110:1 “*The Lord said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.*”
- Proverbs 30:4 “*Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is HIS SON'S NAME, if you know?*”
- Isaiah 44:6 “*Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, AND his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God.*”
- Isaiah 48:16 “*Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord God and His Spirit have sent Me.*”
- Jeremiah 23:5-6 “*Behold, the days are coming says the Lord, that I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: 'THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.'*”
- Amos 4:10-11 “*I sent among you a plague after the manner of Egypt; your young men I killed with a sword, along with your captive horses; I made the stench of your camps come up into your nostrils; yet you have not returned to Me,' says the Lord. I overthrew some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were like a firebrand plucked from the burning; yet you have not returned to Me,' says the Lord.*”

#### 4. **Jesus is not an ANGEL**

- Hebrews 1:4-7 “*having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say: 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.' And again: 'I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son.' But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: 'Let the angels of God worship Him.' And of the angels He says: 'Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire.'*”

#### 5. **Jesus is more than a PROPHET**

- Hebrews 1:1 (NKJV) “*God who at various times and in various ways spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son...*”

#### 6. **Jesus is the SON OF GOD**

- Hebrews 1:1 “*God who at various times and in various ways spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son...*”
- Luke 3:21-22 “*When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, 'You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.'*”
- Matthew 16:15-17 “*He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.'*”

#### 7. **Jesus is GOD**

- Hebrews 1:8-9 “*But to the Son He says: 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.'*”

#### 8. **Jesus is the eternal WORD OF GOD**

- John 1:1, 14 “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*”
- 1 John 5:7 “*There are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit: and these three are one.*”

#### 9. **Jesus is not the FATHER**

- Mark 14:36 “*And He said, 'Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will but what You will.'*”

- Luke 2:49 *“And He said to them, ‘Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?’”*
- John 8:16 *“And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I AM NOT ALONE, but I am with the Father who sent Me.”*
- John 8:17-18 *“It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true. I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me.”*
- John 14:23 *“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and WE will come to him and make OUR home with him.’”*

#### **10. Jesus PRE-EXISTED with the Father**

- Proverbs 30:4 *“Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is HIS SON’S NAME, if you know?”*
- Isaiah 48:16 *“Come near Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord God and His Spirit have sent Me.”*
- Micah 5:2 *“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.”*
- John 1:1 *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.”*
- John 8:57-58 *“Then the Jews said to Him, ‘You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.’”*
- John 17:5 *“And, now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with (literally: “alongside”) You before the world was.”*
- Colossians 1:16-17 *“For by Him (the Son) all things were created, that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”*

#### **11. Jesus is EQUAL to the Father**

- John 5:18 *“Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.”*
- Philippians 2:5-6 *“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God.”*
- John 5:22-23 *“For the Father judges no one but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”*

#### **12. Jesus is not GREATER than the Father**

- John 10:29 *“My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all.”*
- John 14:28 *“I am going to the Father, for My Father is greater than I.”*
- 1 Corinthians 15:27-28 *“But when He says, ‘all things are put under Him,’ it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who puts all things under Him, that God may be all in all.” (Once His redemptive work is complete, Jesus will continue to remain as Son within the Godhead but no longer function in His assumed saving mediatory role.)*

#### **13. Jesus and the Father are ONE**

- John 10:30 *“I and My Father are one.”*
- John 14:7 *“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.”*
- John 10:38 *“Though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.”*
- John 14:8-11 *“Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, “Show us the Father?” Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.’”*



- John 17:21 *“that they all may be one, as You, Father are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You have sent Me.”*

**14. GODHEAD is the Biblical term that describes the mystery of the relationship between God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit**

- Matthew 28:19 *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”*
- Romans 1:20 *“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.”*
- 1 Timothy 3:16 *“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.”*

**15. The biblical and historical Christian doctrine of the Godhead is called the TRINITY**

- The Doctrine of the Trinity is based on revelation and a systematic (comprehensive) study of the entire Bible. In Christian theology, the term "trinity" means that there are three eternal distinctions in one divine essence, known respectively as "Father," "Son," and "Holy Spirit" and yet there is only one God. Though the term "trinity" does not appear in the Bible, it is a theological term used early in the history of the church to explain the revelation of the Godhead (other theological words that do not appear in the Bible include "rapture," "oneness," etc. Early Christian teaching about God was preoccupied with the unity of God, but the struggle with paganism and heresy forced the subject to the forefront. The Greek form, *trias*, seems to be used first by Theophilus of Antioch (d. A.D. 181) and its Latin form, *trinitas*, by Tertullian (d. ca. A.D. 220). Tertullian refuted the suggestion that any distinction between the Three involved any division or separation. The distinction was more of a *distribution* rather than a *separation*. He referred to the unity between the root and its shoot, the source and the river, and the sun and its light. His normal way of expressing this distinction was to say that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were one in "substance." This substance has not been divided but *extended*. The Athanasian Creed expresses the doctrine of the trinity thus: "We worship one God in the Trinity, and the Trinity in unity; we distinguish among the persons, but we do not divide the substance . . . The entire three persons are coeternal and coequal with one another, so that . . . we worship complete unity in the Trinity and Trinity in unity." The doctrine of the trinity is not a truth of natural theology, but of revelation. A systematic (comparative and organized) study of the Scripture reveals this "Tri-unity" of the Godhead.

**16. FALSE views of the Trinity include**

- **Tri-theism:** Tri-theism denies the unity of the essence of God and holds to three distinct gods. Historical tri-theism appeared in Monophysite circles around 550 A.D., associated with Johannes Askunages and Johannes Philiponus. The only unity that this view recognizes is a formal unity of conscience in common purpose and endeavor. The three persons are consubstantial.
- **Sabellianism ("Modalism"):** Sabellianism, also called "Modalistic Monarchianism" or "Patripassianism," was an influential theological movement at the beginning of the third century A.D. It seemed to originate in Asia Minor where Noetus of Smyrna taught this view. His disciple Epigonus brought the teaching to Rome. Then through Praxeas and Sabellius the doctrine gained a strong foothold. Today the belief is commonly called the "Oneness" doctrine and was revived at a 1913 Assembly of God campmeeting outside Los Angeles, CA where an otherwise unknown figure, John G. Scheppe, ran through the camp claiming to have received a revelation concerning the baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. This brought sharp controversy and divisiveness within the Assembly of God that was highlighted in the Fourth General Council in 1916 where the Trinity view of God was upheld and 156 Oneness ministers were barred from membership. From these barred ministers rose modern oneness movements such as the United Pentecostal Church among others. This doctrine holds to a three-fold revelation or "manifestation" of God in the same sense in which a man may be an artist, a teacher, and a friend, or as one may be a father, a son, and a brother. But this is in reality a denial of the trinity, for these are not three *distinctions* in Persons, but are three *qualities* within the same person. While it is true that a person can be a father, son, and brother simultaneously, they can only do so in the context of distinct relationships. A person can be a father but not his own father. A person can be a son but not his own son. A person can be a brother but not his own brother. There must exist by virtue of the relationship between father and son, son and father, and brother and brother a distinction in persons. Thus there cannot exist at any time a unity in the Godhead between Father, Son, and Holy Ghost without making a distinction in Persons.



**17. Jesus is CREATOR along with the Father**

- John 1:1-3 *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."*
- Colossians 1:16,17 *"For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist."*
- Hebrews 1:2 *"has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through who also He made the worlds..."*
- Hebrews 1:10 *"You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands."*

**18. Jesus is the only way to the FATHER**

- John 14:6 *"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

**19. The confession and revelation that Jesus blessed concerning Himself was that He is the CHRIST, the SON OF THE LIVING GOD**

- Matthew 16:16 *"Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."*
- Acts 9:5, 20 *"And he (Saul) said, 'Who are You, Lord?' Then the Lord said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting'...Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God."*

**20. Because of His obedience, God has highly EXALTED Jesus and given Him THE NAME that is above every name**

- Philippians 2:9 *"Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name."*

**21. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is LORD**

- Philippians 2:10-11 *"that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

**22. God has made Jesus both LORD and CHRIST**

- Acts 2:36 *"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."*

**2 John 1:9** *"Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds."*

**23. Believers in the true Jesus are not to RECEIVE anyone who does not abide in the doctrine of Christ.**

**24. Those who do give them credibility and SHARE in their evil deeds.**

**25. Those who abide in the doctrine of Christ have both the FATHER and the SON.**

## **EARLY CHRISTIAN CREEDS (Defining the Christian Faith)**

Note: The term "catholic" means "universal" and was used prior to the formation of the Roman Catholic Church

### **1. THE APOSTLE'S CREED:**

"I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit. I believe a holy catholic Church, the communion of saints; The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen."

### **2. THE NICENE CREED:**

"I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life; who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spake by the prophets. And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen."

### **3. THE ATHANASIAN CREED:**

"Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the catholic faith; Which faith except every one do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt he shall perish everlastingly. And the catholic faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; Neither confounding the persons, nor dividing the substance. For there is one person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Spirit. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit is all one, the glory equal, the majesty co-eternal. Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit. The Father uncreate, the Son uncreate, and the Holy Spirit uncreate. The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, the Holy Spirit incomprehensible. The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Spirit eternal. And yet they are not three eternals, but one uncreated and one incomprehensible. So likewise the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, and the Holy Spirit almighty; And yet they are not three almighties, but one almighty. So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God; And yet they are not three Gods, but one God. So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Spirit Lord; ...So are we forbidden by the catholic religion to say: There are three Gods or three Lords. The Father is made of none, neither created nor begotten...The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son; neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding. So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits. And in this Trinity none is afore, or after another; none is greater, or less than another. But the whole three persons are co-eternal, and co-equal. So that in all things, as aforesaid, the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshipped. He therefore that will be saved must thus think of the Trinity. Furthermore is it necessary to everlasting salvation that he also believe rightly the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the right faith is that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and man. God of the substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds; and man of the substance of His mother, born in the world. Perfect God and perfect man, of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting. Equal to the Father as touching His Godhead, and inferior to the Father as touching His manhood. Who, although He is God and man, yet He is not two, but one Christ. One, not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh, but by taking of the manhood into God, One altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person. For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ; Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead; He ascended into heaven, He sitteth on the right hand of the Father, God Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. At whose coming all men shall rise again with their bodies; And shall give account of their own works. And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting, and they that have done evil into everlasting fire. This is the catholic faith, which except a man believe faithfully, he cannot be saved.