

## The Apostles' Creed

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I believe in God the Father almighty,  
maker of Heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, His only 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 on the right hand of God the Father.  
From thence He shall come to judge the quick 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.

The Apostles' Creed is a well thought out and concise statement of faith that Christians the world over have used for almost two millenia to reaffirm their faith to one another and to our God. However, it is unlikely that any of Jesus' apostles had a voice in it's writing. John died around the turn of the first century and outlived all of the other apostles, the rest were martyred within twenty or thirty years after Jesus' crucifixion. The Apostles' Creed doesn't appear to have come into use until a century later, around 150 A.D., in Rome. While the name is a misnomer and somewhat misleading the apostles probably would have embraced it's use and not found any fault with the wording. In any event the group recital should never be used so often that it becomes mechanical, repetitious and ritualistic like pagan ceremonies or heathen chants. The Apostles' Creed should be repeated only by believers who fully understand the significance of each phrase.