

The Apostles Creed: First Article of Faith

I believe in God

God: His Existence and Nature:

The Singularity of God: *How many God's are there?*

Polytheism / Henotheism

The sinfulness of humanity: Romans 1:20-23

Monotheism:

I Kings 8:60

Psalms 86:10

II Kings 19:19

Romans 3:20

James 2:19

The God of the Bible is known by many names:

El Shaddai

El Elyon

Adonai

Yaweh

The Apostles' Creed uses this generic term to show that the God of the Bible is the only one who deserves to be called God.

The Simplicity of God: Unity of His Nature/Essence

Simple: God's essence is not composed of different substances, but is a unified whole consisting of only one substance.

The Apostles' Creed implies what the Nicene Creed makes explicit: "...of one substance with the Father."

the Father Almighty,

Name: How "Father" is used in Scripture

Father as Creator of all things. (I Corinthians 8:6)

Father as Redeemer (Romans 8:15) *Spirit of adoption*

Father in Unique relationship with Jesus

John 1:14-18 John 5:17-26 Galatians 4:6 2 Peter 1:17 II John 9

John 14:16-17

"Father" in the Old Testament regularly refers to the Trinity:

Deuteronomy 32:6 Isaiah 63:16 Isaiah 64:8 Malachi 2:10

Matthew 5:45

Matthew 6:6-18

Acts 17:24-29

James 1:16-17

Nature of Fatherhood:

The Ontological Trinity: Considered according to essence/nature

The Economic Trinity: Consideration of Persons interacting in relation to one another.

I John 4:9

John 15:26

Creator: Father of everything He has created (referencing Trinity, as seen before)

Deuteronomy 32:6; Isaiah 43:6-7; Isaiah 64:8; Malachi 2:10; Acts 17:26-28

King:

In the Ancient Near East Kings were referred to as “Father”

Israelites referred to David as “Father”: Mark 11:10 Acts 4:25-26

God is the Great King: Isaiah 63:15-16

Our Divine King loves us like a father.

The Lord’s Prayer:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come...”

As our loving King He has authority and desire to answer these petitions.

Family Head:

Genesis 5:1-3 God’s relationship to Adam has some analogy to Adam’s relationship to his son Seth.

Deuteronomy 1:31

Psalms 103:13

Proverbs 3:12

Hosea 11:1

Numbers 12:6

God answers prayer as a human father cares/provides for his children:
Matthew 7:9-11 Luke 11:1-11

The Father loves us because we have been born into His family:
John 1:12-13 I John 2:29 I John 3:1

The Lord disciplines like an earthly father: Hebrews 12:5-10

The Church is referred to as God's household/family:
I Timothy 3:15 I Peter 4:17

Power of the Father:

God is omnipotent: His power is unlimited: Jeremiah 10:10-16 Isaiah 46:10-11

God's power revealed in the Exodus: Exodus 14:31; Numbers 14:13;
Deuteronomy 9:26-29; 2 Kings 17:36; Psalm 66:3-6; Isaiah 63:12

There are things that God cannot/will not do: Malachi 3:6 James 1:17

God's Power is matchless: Isaiah 14:24-27 Job 38

maker of heaven and earth

The Works of Creation

Nehemiah 9:6

The Father worked in Creation:

The Son was a means, instrument in Creation: I Corinthians 8:6

The Holy Spirit is mentioned less explicitly: Genesis 1:2-3

The Goodness of Creation: Genesis 1:4,10,12,18,21,25,31 "very good"

The Curse: Genesis 3:17-19

Restoration of Creation: Romans 8:20-22

It is still our Father's world: I Timothy 4:4

The heavens still declare the glory of God Psalm 19

The goodness of God is still seen in creation Romans 1

God's Authority over Creation:

Absolute: Isaiah 29:16 Isaiah 45:9
Romans 9:20-21 (18-24)

Jeremiah 18:1-10

Outline based on presentation by Dr. Richard Pratt