

And in Jesus Christ

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 sits on the
 right hand of God the Father Almighty;
 From there He shall come to judge the living
 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.

Introduction:

Jesus as Christ is central to the creed. The declaration that Jesus Christ is God's only son is the cornerstone of Christianity and is a parting of company with Judaism and Islam. The whole New Testament was written to make and justify that claim.

- Judaism – Jesus Christ is not a part of Jewish theology, don't believe Jesus fulfilled prophecies, not who they are looking for, theology is based on covenant between God and Abraham
- Islam – Jesus was only a man, good prophet, acknowledge miracles: virgin birth ascension into heaven. Not a deity, Son of God or Savior of the world

Think of this week as a teaser/summary/thought provoker. Because, we will spend the next 7 lessons talking more about Jesus Christ. There is a lot to cover.

So, we declare in the creed "I believe in Jesus Christ".

What does that declaration mean?

In Jesus:

A few things I believe that means (there is a lot, the creed expands on it but I don't want to jump ahead.):

1. Jesus was a real historical person that lived BC 6/5-AD30
2. He walked this earth with us living among us (John 1:14)
3. Mary's son, a little scandal and a lot of faith (Matthew 1:18-21)
4. Fulfilled the OT prophesy (Matthew 1:22-23)
5. Grew up in a sinful world, community, house, on the run (Matthew 2:1-18)
6. Jewish carpenter (Matthew 13:55 & Mark 6:3)
7. 3 years as rural rabbi/teacher
8. He was 100% man and 100% God
9. Without sin...experienced the effects of sin.....and boy did he experience the sin of this world.
10. Put to death in AD 30

Other thoughts?

In “Christ”: literally “the anointed one”

1. Not his last name, descriptor of his profession but rather a title. The appointed savior-king for whom the Jews had long been waiting.
2. Since the Christ was expected to set up God’s reign and be hailed as overlord throughout the world, to call Jesus **Christ** was to claim for him a decisive place in history and the universal dominion, which all men everywhere must acknowledge. (Acts 2:22-36)
3. Christ died and lived again that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living (Romans 14:9)
4. Christ is Lord of all things (Philippians 2:10)
5. Meets all of our needs as sinners by fulfilling the anointed roles of Prophet, Priest and King

Q. 23. What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer?

A. Christ, as our Redeemer, executeth the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

6. As Prophet – As sinners we are ignorant of God and need teaching and direction

Q. 24. How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?

A. Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

7. As Priest – we are estranged from God and need reconciliation

Q. 25. How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?

A. Christ executeth the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.

8. As King –because we are weak, blind and foolish when it comes to living for God, so we need a leader to guide, protect, and strengthen us.

Q. 26. How doth Christ execute the office of a king?

A. Christ executeth the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

Conclusion:

J.I. Packer, I think said it well so I’ll just quote him:

“If Jesus is God, the Son, our co-creator, and is also Christ, the anointed savior-king, now risen from death and reigning (sitting, as the Creed puts it, “on the right hand of the Father almighty,” in the place of authority and power), then he has a right to rule us and we have no right to resist his claim. As he invaded space and time in Palestine nearly (over) 2,000 years ago, so he invaded our personal space and time today, with the same purpose of love that first brought him to earth. “Come, follow me” was his word then, and it is so still.

Is he, then your Lord? For all who say the Creed, this question is inescapable; for how can you say “our Lord” in church till you have first said “my Lord” in your heart?”