

Confession of a progressive non-denominational church (trap set, pastor in jeans and polo shirt, coffee bar): Creed of Nicea! **BRI:** "A reading of the above statements will show that with respect to their doctrine of God SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS ARE IN HARMONY WITH THE GREAT CREEDAL STATEMENTS OF CHRISTENDOM, including the Apostles' Creed, NICEA 325), and the additional definition of faith concerning the Holy Spirit as reached in CONSTANTINOPLE (381)". (George Reid, *Seventh-day Adventists: A Brief Introduction to Their Beliefs*, Biblical Research Institute). **Max Lucado**, *Promise Keepers*: 1. Call our your denomination → chaotic chorus! 2. "On the count of three, would you please shout the name to whom you have entrusted your heart, your soul, your ministry, your hopes for this day, and your confidence concerning tomorrow?" → 40,000 pastors in unison: **JESUS!** Reduction = Subtraction: 2,000 pages of biblical inspiration vs human creed information?! **Gerhard Hasel's** *Theology of the Old Testament: different approaches to condense the entire Old Testament in one concept . . . Covenant? Love? Death/Life? Heilsgeschichte?* **My Proposal:** God. Elohim. Jehovah.

AD 325-Creed of Nicea "We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten from the Father, only-begotten, that is, from the substance of the Father [**Athanasius:** ὁμοούσιος **homoousios** **consubstantial** ⚡ **Arius:** ὁμοιούσιος **homoiousios** **ähnlich, gleichartig**], God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one substance with the Father, through Whom all things came into being, things in heaven and things on earth, Who because of us men and because of our salvation came down, and became incarnate and became man, and suffered, and rose again on the third day, and ascended to the heavens, and will come to judge the living and dead, **And in the Holy Spirit.** But as for those who say, There was when He was not, and, Before being born He was not, and that He came into existence out of nothing, or who assert that the Son of God is of a different hypostasis or substance, or created, or is subject to alteration or change – these the Catholic and apostolic Church anathematizes."

Background Check **Constantine:** Bible → Church & State! theological anti-arian political ecumencial motivation for unity of empire (King James → KJV!). **Arians:** catch-all phrase for non-Catholics • Semantics: "begotten/created" - biblical vocabulary - platonic (incorporeal) understanding! **Arius** (Thalia): God is invisible even to the Son! **Luther:** Namely, the old article of faith/that Christ be really truly God/preserved/against the new cleverness of Arius/who wanted to falsify this article with reason/yes alter and damn/over which he himself is damned. Because the Council did not invent this article anew nor established it/as if it hadn't been prior to that in the churches/but defended against the heresy of Arius" (Luther, *Von den Konziliis und Kirchen* (s. Anm. 6), 504,6-11.) 318 bishops - just like Abraham's band to re-capture Lot from Cedor-Laomer (Gen 14:14; Hilarius von Poitiers, + 367)! → 538-1798 = 1260! Visigoths, Ostrogoths, Vandals **Easter Controversy:** not biblical but anti-Jewish distancing! (Christmas AD 336) **Music:** Bach b minor Mass BWV 232 I Olivier Messiaen Méditations sur le mystère de la Sainte Trinité I SDA Hymnal #77 Holy, Holy, Holy → "Nicaea"

EGW: "A complete offering has been made; for "God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son,"—not a son by creation, as were the angels, nor a son by adoption, as is the forgiven sinner, but a Son begotten in the express image of the Father's person, and in all the brightness of his majesty and glory, one equal with God in authority, dignity, and divine perfection. In him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." (ST May 30 1895, par. 3).

AD 381-Council of Constantinople We believe in one God the Father all-powerful, maker of heaven and of earth, and of all things both seen and unseen. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten from the Father before all the ages, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father, through whom all things came to be; for us humans and for our salvation he came down from the heavens and became incarnate from the holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, became human and was crucified on our behalf under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried and rose up on the third day in accordance with the scriptures; and he went up into the heavens and is seated at the Father's right hand; he is coming again with glory to judge the living and the dead; his kingdom will have no end. And in the Spirit, the holy, the lordly and life-giving one, proceeding forth from the Father [**6. Jhdt/1014: filioque "and the Son" → 1054 schism**], co-worshipped and co-glorified with Father and Son, the one who spoke through the prophets; in one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. We confess one baptism for the forgiving of sins. We look forward to a resurrection of the dead and life in the age to come. Amen.

AD 390-Apostolic Creed I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator 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, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will 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 life everlasting. Amen.

SDA Preamble 1889 "In presenting to the public this synopsis of our faith, we wish to have it distinctly understood that we have no articles of faith, creed, or discipline, aside from the Bible. We do not put forth this as having any authority with our people, nor is it designed to secure uniformity among them, as a system of faith, but is a brief statement of what is, and has been, with great unanimity, held by them." **Baptismal Vow pre-1980:** "1. I believe in God the Father, His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit." ⚡ **Today:** "There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

"Error is never harmless" (CW 46). "His Church must be kept free from all false doctrine" (Ms 46, 1905 par. 6).

Athanasian Creed (5/6. c.) Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the Catholic Faith. Which Faith except everyone 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 Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one, the Glory equal, the Majesty co-eternal. Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Ghost. The Father uncreate, the Son uncreate, and the Holy Ghost uncreate. The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, and the Holy Ghost incomprehensible. The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Ghost eternal. And yet they are not three eternals, but one eternal. As also there are not three incomprehensibles, nor three uncreated, but one uncreated, and one incomprehensible. So likewise the Father is Almighty, the Son Almighty, and the Holy Ghost Almighty. And yet they are not three Almighties, but one Almighty. So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God. And yet they are not three Gods, but one God. So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Ghost Lord. And yet not three Lords, but one Lord. For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity to acknowledge every Person by himself to be both God and Lord, So are we forbidden by the Catholic Religion to say, There be three Gods, or three Lords. The Father is made of none, neither created, nor begotten. The Son is of the Father alone, not made, nor created, but begotten. The Holy Ghost 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 Ghost, not three Holy Ghosts. And in this Trinity none is afore, or after other; none is greater, or less than another; But the whole three Persons are co-eternal together and co-equal. So that in all things, as is aforesaid, the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshipped. He therefore that will be saved is must think thus of the Trinity. Furthermore, it is 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 be 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 at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence he will come to judge the quick and the dead. At whose coming all men will rise again with their bodies and shall give account for 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.

Fundamental Principals

Joseph Bates: "What's new?" "The Sabbath, that's new!"

JN Loughborough "The first step of apostasy is to get up a creed, telling us what we shall believe. The second is to make that creed a test of fellowship. The third is to try members by that creed. The fourth is to denounce as heretics those who do not believe that creed. And, the fifth, to commence persecution against such" ("Doings of the Battle Creek Conference," Review and Herald, October 5 and 6, 1861).

SDA "We may be strengthened and confirmed in the past experience that holds us to the essential points of truth which have made us what we are - **Seventh-day Adventists**. The past fifty years have not dimmed one jot or principle of our faith as we received the great and wonderful evidences that were made certain to us" (Lt 326, 1905). "God calls us to make known to all people the truths that have made us what we are—**Seventh-day Adventists**" (Mt 24:14; Ms125, 1907, par. 13). "In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention" (9T 19.1). "The past fifty years have not dimmed one jot or principle of our faith as we received the great and wonderful evidences that were made certain to us in 1844, after the passing of the time. ... Not a word is changed or denied. That which the Holy Spirit testified to as truth after the passing of the time, in our great disappointment, is the solid foundation of truth. Pillars of truth were revealed, and we accepted the foundation principles that have made us what we are—**Seventh-day Adventists**, keeping the commandments of God and having the faith of Jesus. (Ms111-1905.4). "Bear in mind [that the] doctrines held by **Seventh-day Adventists** are the gospel that Christ said must go to all people, tongues, and nations" (Ms 199, 1899, par. 10).


EGW "But God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines and the basis of all reforms. The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority—not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain "Thus saith the Lord" in its support" (GC 525)

"The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever." Deut 29:29. The revelation of Himself that God has given in His word is for our study. This we may seek to understand. But beyond this we are not to penetrate. The highest intellect may tax itself until it is wearied out in conjectures regarding the nature of God, but the effort will be fruitless. This problem has not been given us to solve. No human mind can comprehend God. None are to indulge in speculation regarding His nature. Here silence is eloquence. The Omniscient One is above discussion" (MH 429.3).

"One sentence of Scripture is of more value than ten thousand of man's ideas or arguments" (7T 71).

"Let the Scriptures be read in simple faith, and let each one form his conceptions of God from His inspired Word"
(Letter 214, 1903, Oct. 9, to P. T. Magan and E. A. Sutherland).

Bible Creeds Gen 1:1; Ex 20; Deut 6:4; Eccl 12:13-14; Mt 4:4; 5-7; Jn 9:35; 20:31; Acts 2:36-39; 8:37; 1Cor 15:1-8; Phil 2:5-11; 1Tim 3:16; 2Tim 3:16-17; Rev 14:6-7,12

Mission  Minimal condition for faith and practice? Goal of confession? Relevance? Missiological church structure?