

## CatClub: Question 31



**1. Recap.** We have learnt first that Christians must believe that ‘God’s Word’ (= the whole Bible) is true as it’s all about Jesus; second, that Christians must accept the gospel message proclaimed by the whole Bible, i.e. that trusting in Jesus alone is the way to eternal life.

**Question 31 now asks:** What do we believe by true faith? **Answer:** **Everything taught to us in the gospel. The Apostles’ Creed expresses what we believe in these words:**

We 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, died, and was buried;  
He descended to the dead.  
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.  
We 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.

**Explanation:** The **Apostles’ Creed** wasn’t written by the apostles (another name for Jesus’ 12 disciples, minus Judas Iscariot who betrayed him and was replaced by Matthias, plus Paul [originally Saul] who was converted when he met the risen Christ in a blaze of light on the road to Damascus, and certain others). However, it accurately reflects their teachings. According to Wikipedia, the earliest known mention of the expression ‘Apostles’ Creed’ occurs in a letter of AD 390 from a synod (gathering of church leaders) in Milan, Italy.

A ‘creed’ is an expression of belief in written form. The **Apostles’ Creed** has been used by virtually all Christian churches for over 1600 years as an expression of what Jesus and his apostles taught. It’s therefore worth learning by heart! The word ‘catholic’\* doesn’t refer to the Roman Catholic Church; ‘catholic’ actually means ‘universal’ or ‘worldwide’ and so refers to all the different Christian churches that believe and teach the basics of Christianity.

**2. Investigation:** What do you notice about the **structure & content** of the Apostles’ Creed?

>>>Next week’s question asks: What do justification and sanctification mean?

**Today’s songs:** ‘We Believe (Apostles’ Creed)’:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZqX13gEbCM>

‘Creed’: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3i-VWxOAc>

## **Philippians 2: 5(b)-11**

...Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## **Colossians 1:15-20**

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.