

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I BELIEVE - CREDO

WEEK TWO: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary ...

This study series is based on the Apostles' Creed, a creed of the Christian Church. A creed is a statement of the beliefs or aims which guide someone's actions.

Many people will say that whilst Jesus was a good man, he was not divine. There is a problem with that. Good men do not lie. If Jesus was a liar then he was not a good man and not divine. If I BELIEVE, there can be no equivocation: JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S SON.

I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, HIS ONLY SON, OUR LORD

Matthew 3:17

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Matthew 17:5

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

There are about 60 verses in Scripture affirming the deity of Jesus. He is part of the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, God, the Holy Spirit.

"In the Christian religion, the Trinity is an idea used to explain that three different persons are called God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (who is sometimes called the Holy Ghost). Trinity states that these three all form the same God."

This is not easy to explain or understand. The important thing is that we believe it because it is what God has spoken. The simple explanation has always been that as water can also be ice and steam: the same substance in three different forms, this gives us a way to make some sense of the concept of the Trinity.

- "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14 In Study No.1 you were asked to read John 1-12, add the next two verses to your reading. Has this helped your understanding of God?
- Look at these verses which are only a small selection of the scriptures that refer to the Holy Trinity: 1 John 5:7-8, 2 Corinthians 3:17, and 13:14, Colossians 2:9, Isaiah 9:6, John 10:30, Matthew 28:19, 1 Corinthians 12:4-6.
- Write down the things you have learned from these verses.

Philippians 2:6-8

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

There is a chorus which says:

"Can you wonder, can you wonder, can you wonder why it is I love him so? When I think of what he's done and for me, the guilty one, can you wonder why it is I love him so."

- Think about this scripture in Philippians, and these words. Write down your thoughts to help keep them in your mind and heart.
- Can we say not only that we believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, but that he has become the Lord of our life?
- If we acknowledge he is our Lord, what does that mean for our lives?
- Write down the ways in which your life would be different if you acknowledged Jesus as Lord and allowed him to direct all that we think and do..

Who was Conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary

This can be quite a big hurdle for some people because it is 'supernatural', and it is easier to deal with concrete realities than something which requires a step of faith.

Philippians 2:6-8 New Living Translation (NLT)

34 Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin." 35 The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God."

It is well worth reading again Luke 1 and 2 which recounts the Angel Gabriel's visit to Mary and her visit to Elizabeth. This was when the baby leapt in her womb and Mary makes that wonderful declaration, which we now call The Magnificat. (Luke 1:46-55).

What can we learn about the importance of praise from this wonderful outpouring from Mary's heart?

Read: Micah 5:2, Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6. What are these scriptures affirming?

Ask the Holy Spirit each day to lead and guide your life. Again, write down what your thoughts are – in effect, keep a diary of what you are learning about your Christian walk.

Read Luke 2:1-20. There was tremendous joy at the birth of Jesus, the angels glorified God in the highest as did the shepherds whilst returning to their flocks.

Prayer: Father God, help me to allow the Holy Spirit to guide my thoughts, actions and daily life. May I grow in faith and trust as I learn and understand more about what, and why, I believe. I give glory to your name for the wonderful gift of your son. Amen.