



WE BELIEVE

Exploring The Apostles' Creed

Term 3, 2022

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Introduction

The word “creed” in Latin simply means “I believe”. Creeds seek to set out what is the authentic belief in God. Like all creeds and statements of faith, they are a product of their time, and generally, they are “a written account of several relationships breakdowns in the church”¹. Those who first said these lines of belief did not do it lightly but often risked ostracism or even persecution. For in their affirming of one belief, they were denying another set of beliefs. Very early on the most contested ideas in Christianity was the identity of Jesus, God’s relation to creation, the meaning of salvation and hope for the future. These creeds were responding to heresy and showing what was based on Scripture as opposed to the philosophies of the day.

Like the three early ecumenical creeds, they are not authored by their namesakes². Unlike some other creeds, the Apostles’ Creed was not decided by a council. A version of it dates back to around 200 AD and was used as an early statement of belief for new converts at baptism. It has evolved over time, and our current version goes back to around the eighth century.

It is helpful to look at the creeds for they tie us back to the historical faith. Sometimes it is good to be reminded that we haven’t invented the doctrinal wheel ourselves in this generation but have leaned on those who have come before us; knowing that in the past they too faced tough circumstances and had to make a stand on Biblical issues. When we recite the Apostles’ Creed in our service we are standing in solidarity with millions of Christians in every age and place, who has also confessed the one faith to the one Lord as part of the one Church.

“Creeds are a portable story, a short summary of the scriptural story line that we can carry with us everywhere we go”³. Each line can be considered a travel bag that can be unpacked more deeply from Scripture. In this series we hope to unpack the Apostles’ Creed, to go back to our basics, and relook at the foundation of what it is that we believe – what the church has always believed, standing on the historic faith. As we think about what it is we believe, may we identify with what it is saying something about who we are. May we declare to the world that we are a people defined by this belief. That this story of God saving people, through His Son in the Spirit is true and good, and hope filled. In order that we may know Him better and be equipped to walk the life He has marked out for us.

¹ Michael F. Bird, *What Christians Ought to Believe*

² The Apostles’ Creed was not written by the Apostles, The Athanasian Creed was not written by Athanasius, The Nicene Creed was finalised in Constantinople

³ Michael F. Bird, *What Christians Ought to Believe*

About these studies

The Apostles' Creed draws its truth from many different parts of Scripture. Due to the time constraints of our Life Group meetings, it does mean that we will not be able to cover every text in the Bible on any given issue in one night. Instead, each week we will simply look at one text to see what the overall passage is saying in its original setting. This one passage will touch on the creed topic for that week.

One of the goals of our St Matt's Life Groups is to help give everyone a tool to read and understand the Bible for themselves. While this can be a bit trickier in a topical series, as we may draw our knowledge on a topic from more parts of the Bible, what we hope for in our Life Groups is still to be guided primarily by the text in front of us, knowing that there are other parts of Scripture that may address this topic and more clearly answer some of our specific questions.

The basic elements of how we teach people to read the Bible for themselves is as follows:

Observations – *Seeing what the text says.* We need to look objectively at the text and see what is there. The text is our only “evidence” in our “crime scene”, so any detail, which may not seem significant can and should be noted. These could be repeating words, ideas or themes. Look at the structure or the flow of the passage, pay attention to the pronouns, locations, conjunctions, etc. Note the verses where these appear.

Questions – *Going deeper in understanding the text.* Using the standard Who? What? When? Where? How? questions on the text can help us go deeper in our understanding. We may have questions that the text doesn't answer. We can ask, but we must not force an answer from the text if an answer simply isn't there. We are letting the text guide us and not our own hang ups, hobby horses or even theology.

Key – *Summarising the main point of the text.* After analysing the text, we step back and work out what is the main point of the passage. Why is this section of scripture written here? What would we lose if this text wasn't in our Bible? What key verse holds this whole passage together, so if that verse wasn't there the rest wouldn't make sense?

Application – *Applying the Key of the text to our lives today.* The Key may adjust or reinforce a belief we may have or may call us to a behaviour or action. How might we now live after reading and understanding the text? The more specific and contextual the better.

Prayer – *Thanking God for the main point and asking for help to apply the text.* All of the Christian life is by grace, from salvation, through sanctification to our glorification. We need to thank God for the truths He has revealed to us and ask Him for help to live out our faith to those around us.

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth



Acts 17:16-34

¹⁶ While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰ You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." ²¹ (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

²² Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴ "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

²⁹ "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

³² When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject." ³³ At that, Paul left the Council. ³⁴ Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them

was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

Sermon Notes

Observations

(Mark up the text, noting ideas, and the flow of the passage. Share something that stands out to you)

Questions

(List your questions & then after a re-read, answer questions that the text itself addresses.)

Key

(What is the big idea of this passage?)

Application

(This is based on the Key above. What does this mean for us today?)

Extra Questions

What does the statement “we are his offspring” say about God’s fatherhood? What does it leave out?

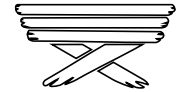
From this passage, what was God’s intention in creating us? Why is idolatry such a disaster?

The reception of Paul’s message was mixed, and it still is today. What is it about the idea of God being Creator that can be confronting? What are today’s creation stories and how might we speak to them?

Prayer

(Don’t forget to pray the application of the text, asking God to help you put it into practice.)

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of virgin Mary



Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Sermon Notes

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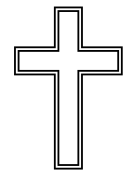
What is the significance of what Mary's child is to be called? What do these names say about the child?

The angel tells Mary the Holy Spirit will overshadow her. Where else in the Bible have we seen the Spirit of God overshadow, or envelope someone or something? What does this tell us about this child?

Why is it not enough to call Jesus God-inspired, a superior angel, or even a god? Who do you say Jesus is?

Prayer

(Don't forget to pray the application of the text, asking God to help you put it into practice.)



Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended to dead

Acts 2:22-39

²² "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵ David said about him:

"I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

²⁶ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, ²⁷ because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay.

²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.'

²⁹ "Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰ But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. ³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. ³³ Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. ³⁴ For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

"The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand

³⁵ until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

³⁶ "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Sermon Notes

Observations

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Extra Questions

How do we know that Christ's experience of death was genuine? What is the importance of this fact?

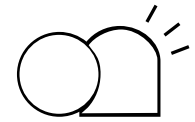
What difference does it make whether we face death with Christ or without him?

Do you have the same confidence that David did in Psalm 16:8-11 (Acts 2:25-28)?

How would you tell someone about this confidence?

Prayer

(Don't forget to pray the application of the text, asking God to help you put it into practice.)



On third day he rose again; He ascended into Heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, And he will come to judge the living and the dead

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹ Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

Sermon Notes

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Extra Questions

How would Christianity be different if Christ had not risen?

What evidence is there for Jesus' resurrection?

How would you describe the hope that you have because Jesus rose bodily from the dead on Easter Sunday?

Prayer

(Don't forget to pray the application of the text, asking God to help you put it into practice.)

I believe in the Holy Spirit



John 15:26-16:15

²⁶ "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. ²⁷ And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

16 "All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. ² They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. ³ They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. ⁴ I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, ⁵ but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶ Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. ⁷ But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because people do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹ and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

¹² "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

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Extra Questions

How does the work of the Spirit differ from that of the Father and the Son?

What does the Holy Spirit do as “Jesus’ agent”?

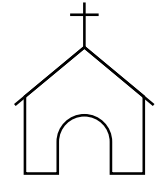
From this passage, what would a Spirit filled Christian look like?

Prayer

(Don't forget to pray the application of the text, asking God to help you put it into practice.)

Week beginning 28 August

The Holy Catholic church, the communion of saints



Ephesians 4:1-16

4 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. **2** Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. **3** Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. **4** There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism; **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. **7** But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. **8** This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”

9 (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? **10** He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) **11** So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, **12** to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up **13** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. **15** Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. **16** From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

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Extra Questions

What practical impact does it have to see yourself as one among many parts of “a body”? How are we to live as one body in the church?

What is the role and the goal of the Prophets, Apostles, and the leaders in our church? How might you be a part of this?

Is this picture of the Christian life different from what you previously would have thought about it? Is it different from the ways other people you know aspire to live?

Prayer

(Don't forget to pray the application of the text, asking God to help you put it into practice.)



The forgiveness of sins

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'

³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Sermon Notes

Observations

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Questions

(List your questions & then after a re-read, answer questions that the text itself addresses.)

Key

(What is the big idea of this passage?)

Application

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Extra Questions

What is forgiveness, and what does it do for the forgiven on a personal level?

What would the world look like if everyone obeyed Jesus' teaching?

What is the motivation behind forgiveness in this passage?

Do you struggle to forgive others? How might you make steps today to forgive someone?

Prayer

(Don't forget to pray the application of the text, asking God to help you put it into practice.)



The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting

1 Corinthians 15:35-57

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" ³⁶ How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. ³⁹ Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. ⁴⁰ There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. ⁴¹ The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

⁴² So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; ⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.

⁵⁰ I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

⁵⁵ "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon Notes

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(What is the big idea of this passage?)

Application

(This is based on the Key above. What does this mean for us today?)

Extra Questions

What evidence does the Bible give to show that death has been conquered?

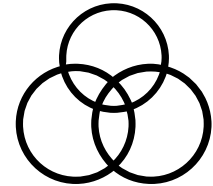
How might you compare and contrast our current bodies with our future bodies? In the seed-plant picture, where is there continuity and discontinuity between the bodies?

Describe the hope, comfort, and confidence you have in thinking about our new bodies for the new heaven and earth.

Prayer

(Don't forget to pray the application of the text, asking God to help you put it into practice.)

I believe in One God in Three Persons



Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

¹⁵ Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Sermon Notes

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(Mark up the text, noting ideas, and the flow of the passage. Share something that stands out to you)

Questions

(List your questions & then after a re-read, answer questions that the text itself addresses.)

Key

(What is the big idea of this passage?)

Application

(This is based on the Key above. What does this mean for us today?)

Extra Questions

The Apostles' Creed starts with "I believe in God" why is it important to say, "in God" and not "in Gods"?

"One does not baptize in the name of a divine person, a holy creature, and an impersonal force."⁴ Why did Christ direct his disciples to baptize "in the name

⁴ John P. Meier, *Matthew* cited in Michael F. Bird, *What Christians ought to Believe*

[singular] of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”? What does this say about God?

What difference does it make to see the Christian life as about a new introduction to who God is?

From what we have learned this term, who are the Persons of God and what do each of them do?

Prayer

(Don't forget to pray the application of the text, asking God to help you put it into practice.)

Appendix 1: The Apostles' Creed and the 39 Articles

All creeds and foundational faith documents are a product of its time, addressing issues of their day. The 39 Articles focused more on the Bible, salvation, and the sacraments, and yet it still has a massive overlap in addressing and affirming what the Apostles' Creed said. Article 8 even affirms the Apostles' Creed: "The Nicene Creed, and that which is commonly called the Apostles' Creed, ought thoroughly to be received and believed: for they may be proved by most certain warrants of Holy Scripture."

Below is a comparison between the Apostles' Creed and the 39 Articles, showing where they overlap.

Apostles' Creed	39 Articles
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.	There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body, parts, or passions; of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the Maker, and Preserver of all things both visible and invisible. (Article 1)
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,	The Son, which is the Word of the Father, begotten from everlasting of the Father, the very and eternal God, and of one substance with the Father, took Man's nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin, of her substance: so that two whole and perfect Natures, that is to say, the Godhead and Manhood, were joined together in one Person. (Article 2)
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.	[Christ] truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried, to reconcile his Father to us, and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for actual sins of men (Article 2) As Christ died for us, and was buried, so also is it to be believed, that he went down into Hell. (Article 3)
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.	Christ did truly rise again from death, and took again his body, with flesh, bones, and all things appertaining to the perfection of Man's nature; wherewith he ascended into Heaven, and there sitteth, until he return to judge all Men at the last day. (Article 4)

I believe in the Holy Spirit,	The Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son, is of one substance, majesty, and glory, with the Father and the Son, very and eternal God. (Article 5)
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,	The visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men, in which the pure Word of God is preached, and the Sacraments be duly ministered according to Christ's ordinance, in all those things that of necessity are requisite to the same. (Article 19)
the forgiveness of sins,	<p>[Christ] came to be the Lamb without spot, who, by sacrifice of himself once made, should take away the sins of the world; and sin (as Saint John saith) was not in him. (Article 15)</p> <p>The Offering of Christ once made is that perfect redemption, propitiation, and satisfaction, for all the sins of the whole world, both original and actual; and there is none other satisfaction for sin, but that alone. (Article 31)</p>
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.	Predestination to Life is the everlasting purpose of God, whereby (before the foundations of the world were laid) he hath constantly decreed by his counsel secret to us, to deliver from curse and damnation those whom he hath chosen in Christ out of mankind, and to bring them by Christ to everlasting salvation, as vessels made to honour.... they attain to everlasting felicity (Article 17)

References and Resources

Some of the questions in this booklet have been taken from:

- Affirming the Apostles' Creed by J. I. Packer
- The God who Speaks Life: A short introduction to the Christian Faith by Andrew Errington

Below are some resources on the Apostles' Creed:

The World Next Door by Rory Shiner and Peter Orr

This is a new book trying to explain the basics of the faith to our generation. It leans a little on C. S. Lewis and Karl Barth. The book unhelpfully raises a few more questions than it answers in the first chapter, but it is very readable and even enjoyable. It perhaps could have gone deeper in some areas. Andrew Vella has two copies to give away if you want one.

Affirming the Apostles' Creed by J. I. Packer

This book helpfully tries to explain the implications of the Creed in a way to give us comfort from the truths it contains, and perhaps has more depth than the book above. It may come off a little dry at times but has nice short chapters explaining the truths in the Creed.

What Christians Ought to Believe by Michael Bird

This is a bit of a cross between Packer and Shiner/Orr. It is readable, frames the Creed in its usefulness to us and explains the truths in the Creed well. It also comes across as warm towards God, in that it is not just talking about God as an abstract but as a person, which sometimes can be missing in theology books. The introduction of this booklet leaned heavily on this book.

Exposition of the Apostles' Creed by William Perkins

This book is probably the heaviest to read because of its style and old language, but the trade-off is that it is free⁵ as it was written in the 16th century. This could be useful as a reference book if you want to deep dive into a section of the Creed.

⁵ <https://www.monergism.com/exposition-apostles-creed-ebook>