

# The Profession of Faith

**The Creed**



# Content

Presentation title



- God the Father
- Creation and Evolution
- Divine Providence
- The Image of God

# What are Creeds?



Creeds are brief formulas of faith that makes it possible for all believers to have a common profession.

- Found in the letters of St Paul
- Apostles Creed (Thought to be a summary of the faith of the Apostles.
- Nicene Creed: From the great councils of Nicaea (325) and Constantinople (381). Common basis for Christians in the East and West.

**Without fixed forms the content of the faith would dissipate. That is why the church attaches great importance to definite sentences, the precise wording of which was usually achieved painstakingly, so as to protect the message of Christ from misunderstanding and falsification.**

**Why does the faith require definition and formulas?**



# How did the Creed come about?

- The Creeds go back to Jesus who commanded his disciples to baptize. In doing so, they were to require of the people seeking baptism, the profession of a definite faith, namely, faith in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Trinity.
- All the Creeds of the Church are elaborations of the faith in this Triune God.





**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; the third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the  
Father almighty; from thence 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 life everlasting. Amen.**

## **The Apostles Creed**

## The Creed

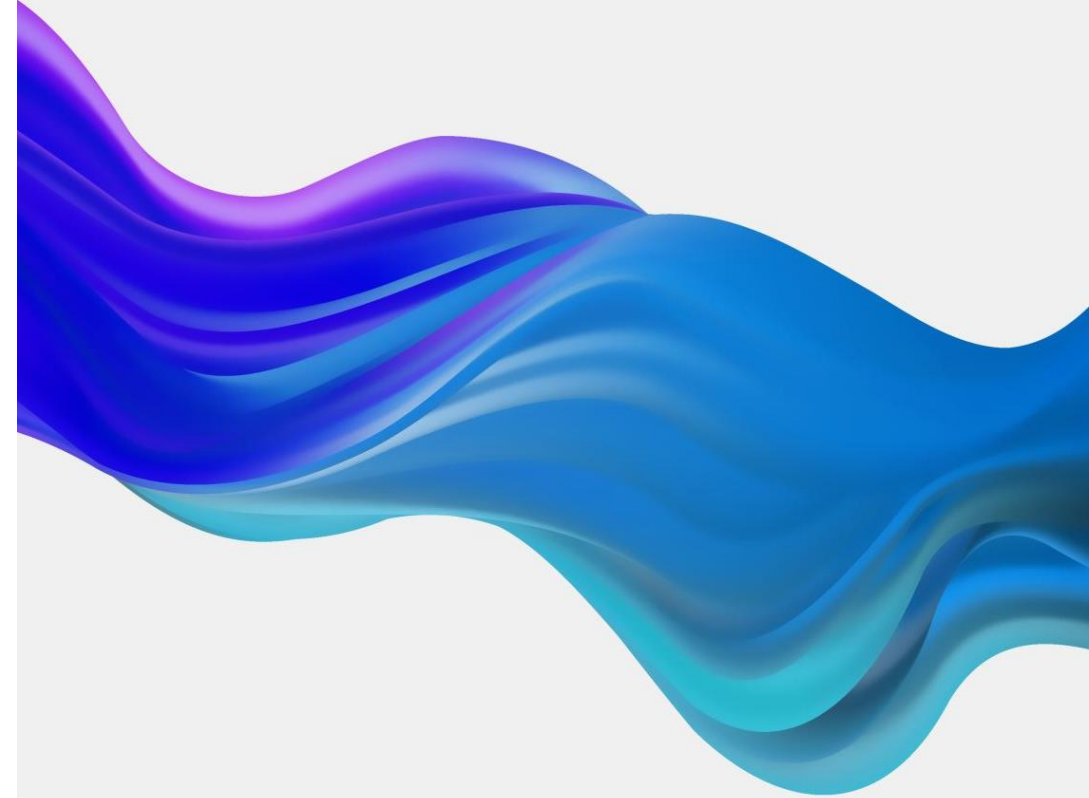
### *The Nicene ("Niceno-Constantinopolitan") Creed*

**I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.**

**God from God,  
Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
*At the words that follow, up to and including 'and became man', all bow.*  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.**



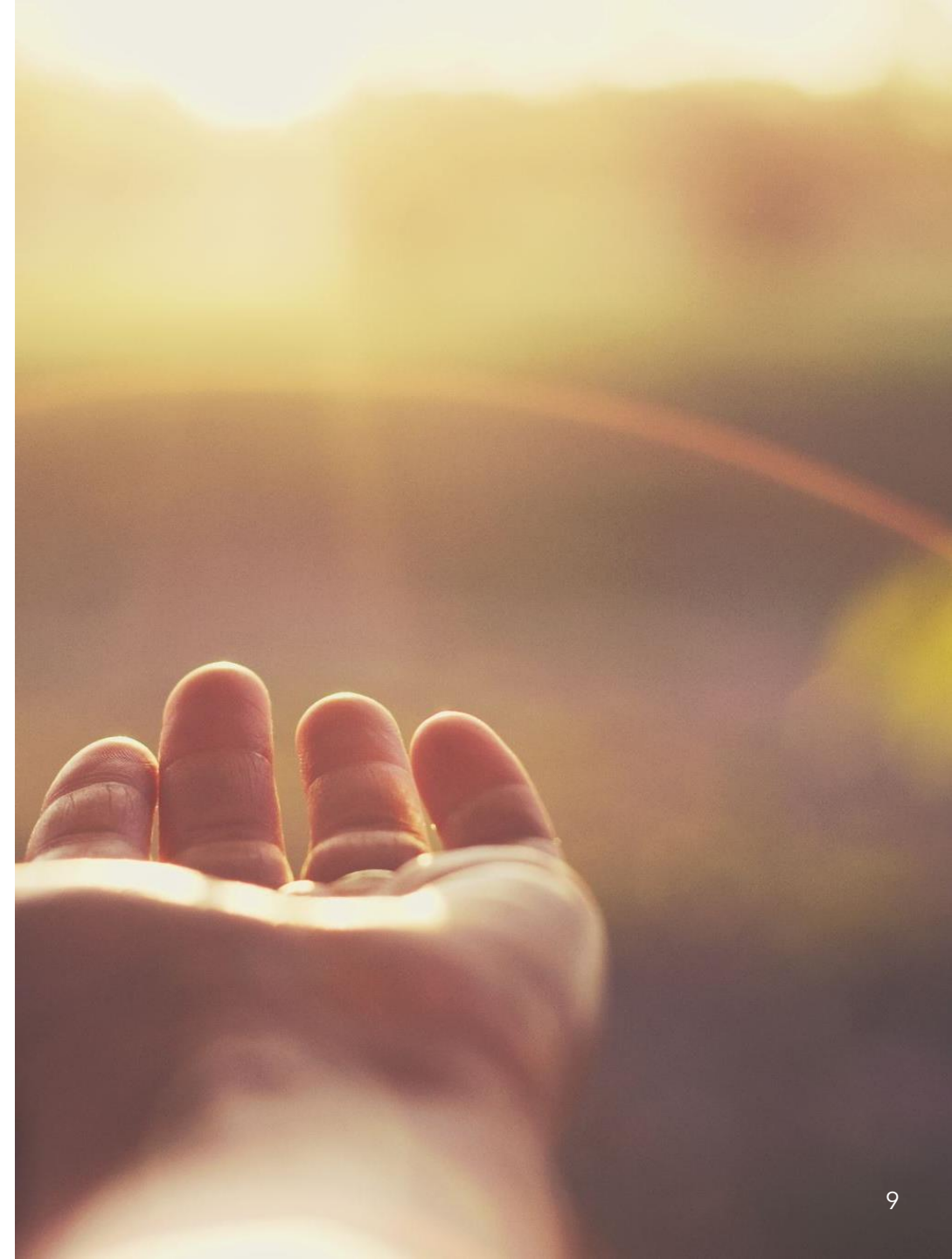
- **The Creed**
- **The Nicene ("Niceno-Constantinopolitan") Creed**

- For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
- he suffered death and was buried,
- and rose again on the third day
- in accordance with the Scriptures.
- He ascended into heaven
- and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
- He will come again in glory
- to judge the living and the dead
- and his kingdom will have no end.
  
- I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
- who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
- who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
- who has spoken through the prophets.
  
- I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
- I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
- and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
- and the life of the world to come. Amen.



# I Believe in God the Father

- We believe in only one God because according to Sacred Scripture there is only one God and according to the laws of logic, there can be only one. If there were two gods, then one would be a limit on the other. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord" (Deut 6:4). "For I am God, and there is no other" (Is 45:22)
- God gives himself a name so as to make it possible to address him. In the burning bush, God reveals to Moses his holy name YHWH (Ex 3:14). God makes it possible for people to address him, but he still remains the hidden God, the Present Mystery.



# I Believe in God the Father

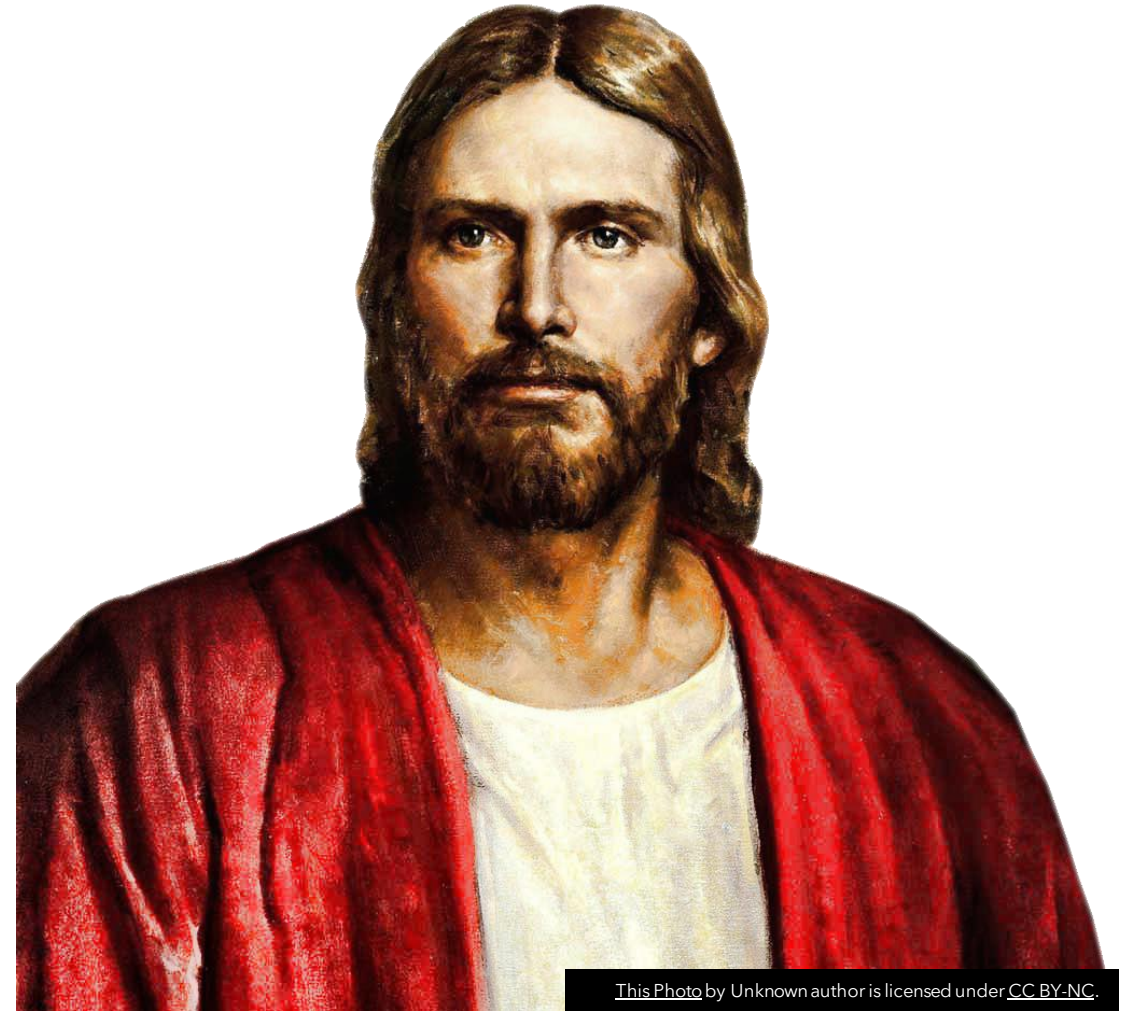
- Out of reverence for God, the name of God was not (and is not) spoken in Israel, the title Adonai (Lord) is substituted. The same word is used by the New Testament when it glorifies Jesus as true God: "Jesus is Lord" (Rom 10:9)
- God is light and in him there is no darkness. (1 Jn 1:5). His word is truth (Prov 8:7), and his Law is truth (Ps 119: 142). Jesus vouches for God's truth before Pilate, "For this I was born...to bear witness to the truth." (Jn 18:37)





# I Believe in God the Father

- The truth of God cannot be "proved" or subjected to empirical tests, since science cannot make him an object of investigation. And yet God subjects himself to a special sort of proof. We know that God is truth on the basis of the absolute credibility of Jesus. (...) He is "the way, the truth, and the life" (Jn 14:6)
- Anyone who enters a relationship with him can find this out by putting it to the test.



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# I Believe in God the Father

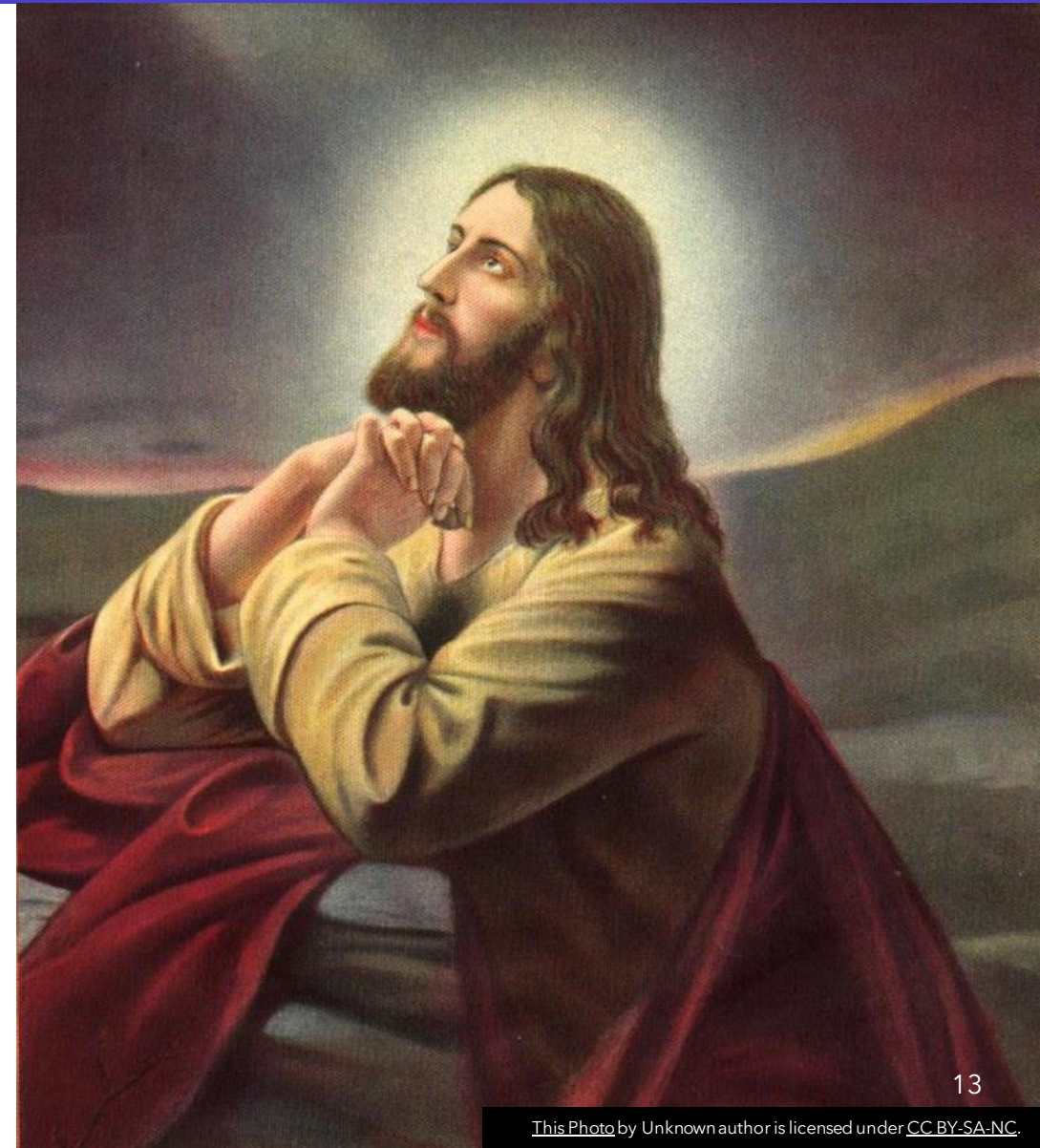
- Once you have come to know God, you must put him in first place in your life. It is not enough to nod your head at this. It is to adopt Jesus' way of life. You should be able to recognize Christians by the fact that they love even their enemies.





# I Believe in God the father

- Christians do not worship three different Gods, but one single being that is threefold and yet remains one. We know that God is triune from Jesus Christ. He the son speaks about his Father in heaven ("I and the Father are one.") He prays to him and send us the Holy Spirit who is the love of the Father and the Son. That is why we are baptized "in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 28"19). The fact that there are three persons in one God is a mystery, that we cannot deduce logically, we know only through Jesus Christ that God is Trinitarian.
- You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. (Jn 13:13)





# I Believe in God the Father

- We revere God as Father first of all because he is the Creator and cares lovingly for his creatures. Jesus, the Son of God, has taught us to regard his Father as our Father and to address him as "our Father."



# Creation and Evolution

- Does Science make the Creator Superfluous?
- No, the sentence "God created the world" is not an outmoded scientific statement. We are dealing here with a theo-logical statement, therefore a statement about the divine meaning and origin of things.
- The creation account is not a scientific model for explaining the beginning of the world. "God created the world" is a theological statement that is concerned with the relation of the world to God.

# Creation and Evolution

- *A Funny Story About Evolution And God's Dirt!*

- God is sitting in Heaven when a scientist says to Him, "Lord, we don't need you anymore. Science has finally figured out a way to create life out of nothing. In other words, we can now do what you did in the beginning."

"Oh, is that so? Tell me..." replies God.

"Well", says the scientist, "we can take dirt and form it into the likeness of you and breathe life into it, thus creating man."

"Well, that's interesting. Show Me."

So the scientist bends down to the earth and starts to mold the soil.

"Oh no, no, no..." interrupts God, (I love this)

"Get your own dirt."

- *God's Dirt - Author Unknown*



# Creation and Evolution

- Can someone accept the theory of evolution and still believe in the Creator?
- Yes. Although it is a different kind of knowledge, faith is open to the findings and hypothesis of the sciences.
- Theology has no scientific competence, and natural science has no theological competence. Natural science cannot dogmatically rule out the possibility that there are purposeful processes in creation; conversely, faith cannot define specifically how these processes take place in the course of nature's development.

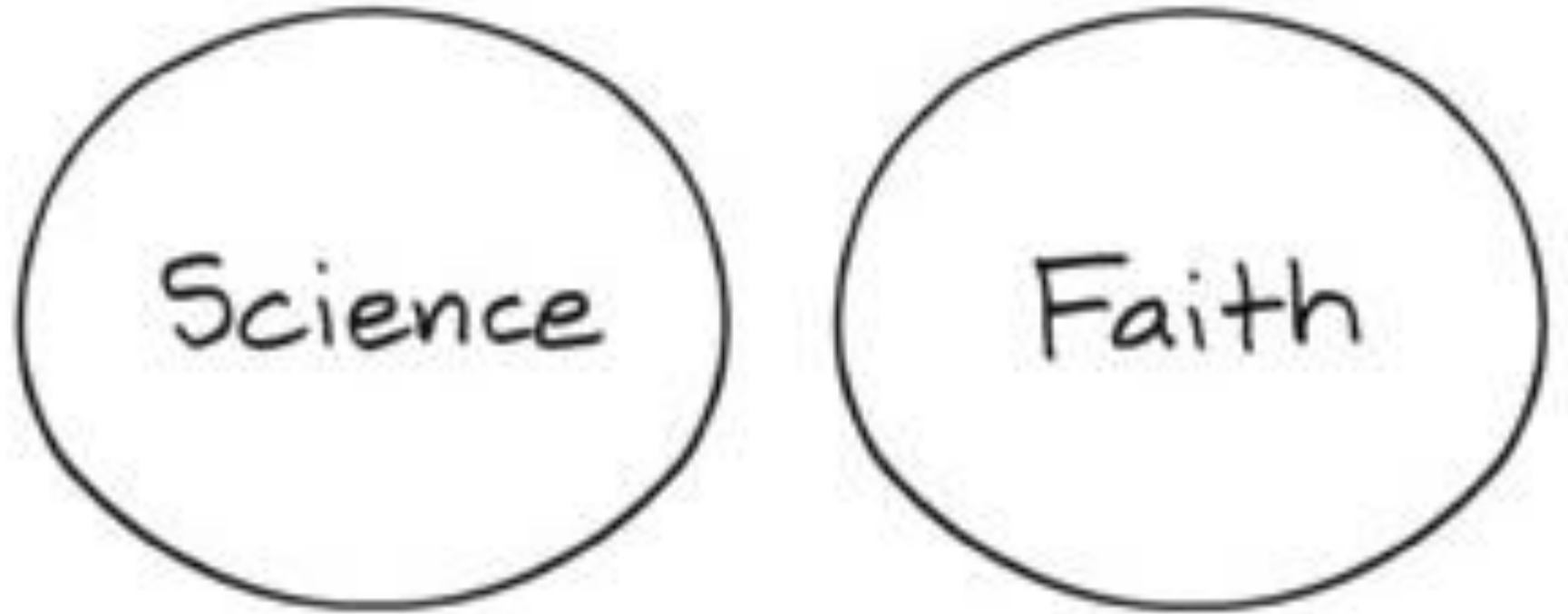


# Creation and Evolution

- A Christian can accept the theory of Evolution as a helpful explanatory model, provided he does not fall into the heresy of evolutionism, which views man as the random product of biological processes.
- Evolution presupposes the existence of something that can develop. The theory says nothing about where this 'something' came from.
- Furthermore, questions about being, essence, dignity, mission, meaning cannot be answered in biological terms.



# Creation and Evolution



@Ryan

- Just as "evolutionism" oversteps a boundary on the one side, so does CREATIONISM on the other. Creationist naively take biblical data literally. (For example, to calculate the earth's age, they cite the six days of work in Genesis 1)



# Creation and Evolution

- Is the world a product of chance?
- No, God, not chance is the cause of the world.
- "Given a universe in which there is such a complex organization of its elements and such a wonderful purposefulness in its life, talking about chance would be equivalent to giving up the search for an explanation of the world as it appears to us. In fact it would be tantamount to accepting effects without cause. It would be an abdication of human reason, (...) refusing to think and search for a solution to problems.

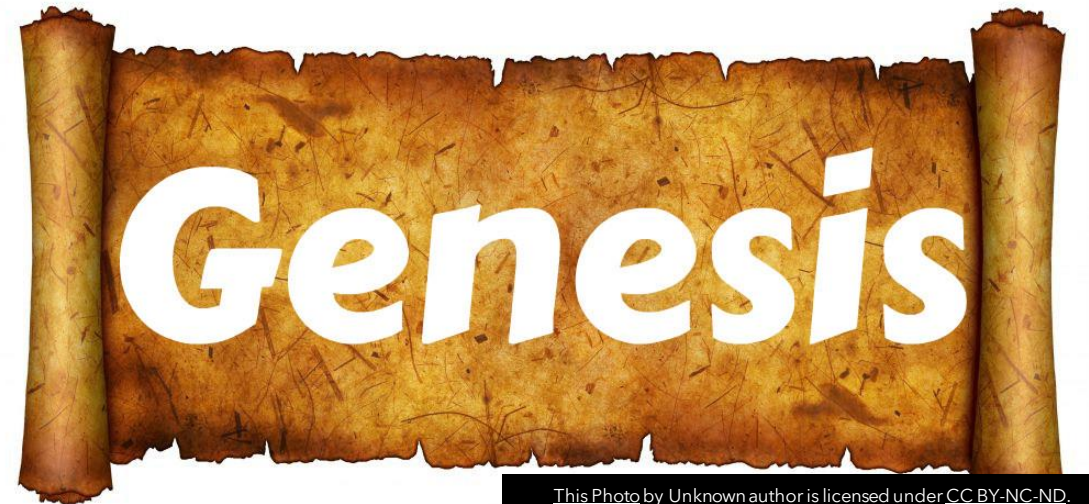
A close-up photograph of a hand holding a glowing, golden orb. The background is a soft, out-of-focus sunset or sunrise with warm, golden light. The hand is positioned in the lower-left corner, and the orb is held in the palm, glowing with a bright, warm light.

# Creation and Evolution

- Who created the world?
- God alone, who is beyond time and space, created the world out of nothing and called all things into being. Everything that exists depends on God and continues in being only because God wills it to be.

# Creation and Evolution

- Why does the book of Genesis depict creation as "the work of six days"?
- From the symbolism of the work of six days, we can derive important principles
- Nothing exists that was not called into being by the Creator.
- Everything that exists is good in its own way.
- Something that has become bad still has a good core.
- Created being and things are interrelated and interdependent.
- Creation in its order and harmony reflects the surpassing goodness and beauty of God



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# Creation and Evolution

- In creation there is an order of complexity: man is superior to an animal, an animal is superior to a plant, a plant is superior to inanimate matter.
- Creation is heading for the great celebration when Christ will bring the world home and God will be everything to everyone.
- Why did God Create the world?
- The world was made for the glory of God. There is no other reason for creation than love. To praise God, does not mean applauding the Creator, (...) praising God (for the human being) means being grateful for his own existence together with all creation.





# Divine Providence

- Providence and the scandal of evil
- 309 If God the Father almighty, the Creator of the ordered and good world, cares for all his creatures, why does evil exist? To this question, as pressing as it is unavoidable and as painful as it is mysterious, no quick answer will suffice. **Only Christian faith as a whole constitutes the answer to this question:** the goodness of creation, the drama of sin and the patient love of God who comes to meet man by his covenants, the redemptive Incarnation of his Son, his gift of the Spirit, his gathering of the Church, the power of the sacraments and his call to a blessed life to which free creatures are invited to consent in advance, but from which, by a terrible mystery, they can also turn away in advance. **There is not a single aspect of the Christian message that is not in part an answer to the question of evil.**
- 310 But why did God not create a world so perfect that no evil could exist in it? With infinite power God could always create something better.<sup>174</sup> But with infinite wisdom and goodness God freely willed to create a world "in a state of journeying" towards its ultimate perfection. In God's plan this process of becoming involves the appearance of certain beings and the disappearance of others, the existence of the more perfect alongside the less perfect, both constructive and destructive forces of nature. With physical good there exists also physical evil as long as creation has not reached perfection.<sup>175</sup>

# The Image of God

- Man = Generic Man = Mankind
- Man is the summit of creation because God created him in his image.
- Unlike inanimate objects, plants and animals, man is a person endowed with a spirit. He is not a something but a someone. Just as we say about God that he is a person, so too we say this about man.
- Man can think beyond his immediate horizon and measure the whole breadth of being; he can even know himself with critical objectivity and work to improve himself. He can perceive others as persons, understand them in their dignity, and love them.



# Image of God

- Why did God make man?
- God made everything for man. Man was created in order to be blessed. This happens when he knows, loves and serves God and lives in gratitude towards his Creator.
- "God loved men. For their sake he created the cosmos; he subjected everything on earth to them; he gave them the ability to speak and understand; he permitted them alone to look up to heaven; he formed them after his likeness; he sent his Son to them; he promised them the kingdom of heaven, and he will give it to those who love him."
- *Letter to Diognetus second century*

# Image of God

- God who is love and archetype of community, created man male and female so that together they might be image of his nature. God created man in such a way that he is male or female and longs for fulfillment in an encounter with the opposite sex.
- "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them. (Gen 1:27)

# Image of God

- The Church believes that, in the order of creation, man and woman are destined to need each other's complementary traits and enter into mutual relationship so as to give life to children. That is why homosexual practices cannot be approved by the Church. Christians owe all persons respect and love, however, regardless of their sexual orientation, because all people are respected and loved by God.
- There is no man on earth who is not descended from a union of a mother and a father. Therefore it is a painful experience for many homosexually oriented people that they do not feel erotically attracted to the opposite sex and necessarily miss out on the physical fruitfulness of the union between man and woman according to human nature and the divine order of creation.



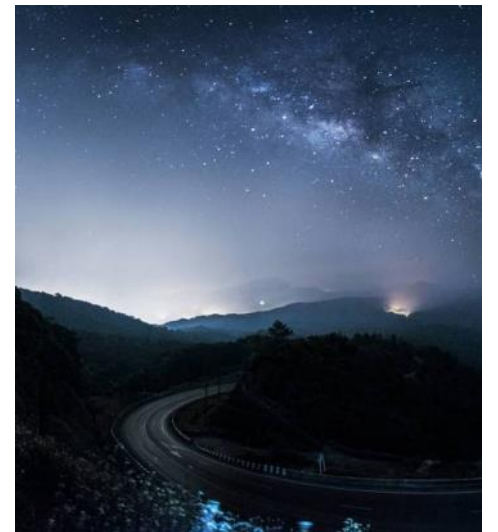
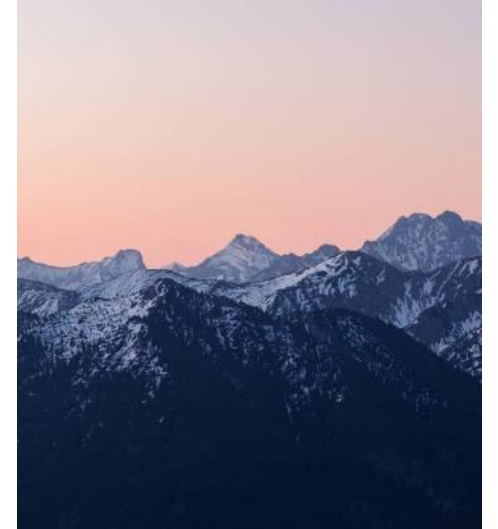
# John 6

- **60** Many of his disciples, when they heard it, said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" **61** But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples murmured at it, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? **62** Then what if you were to see the Son of man ascending where he was before? **63** It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. **64** But there are some of you that do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who those were that did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. **65** And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."
- **66** After this many of his disciples drew back and no longer went about with him. **67** Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" **68** Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; **69** and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

# Summary

*261 The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith and of Christian life. God alone can make it known to us by revealing himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

*262 The Incarnation of God's Son reveals that God is the eternal Father and that the Son is consubstantial with the Father, which means that, in the Father and with the Father the Son is one and the same God.*



# Summary

- *317 God alone created the universe, freely, directly and without any help.*
- *No, the sentence "God created the world" is not an outmoded scientific statement. We are dealing here with a theo-logical statement, therefore a statement about the divine meaning and origin of things.*
- *Man is the summit of creation because God created him in his image.*
- *God made everything for man. Man was created in order to be blessed. This happens when he knows, loves and serves God and lives in gratitude towards his Creator.*





**Fr  
Theophilus  
Nyamali  
OCD**

**Thank you**

