

Creeds and Confessions

Creed – Short response to theological need, often meant for use in worship

Confession – Longer response, intended to go in-depth on one or more theological points

Apostles’ Creed

Origin – Baptismal Creed from 2nd Century Rome (Called R by scholars)

Response to heresies:

Marcionism – OT God is not NT God

Docetism – Jesus is not really human; divinity in disguise

Donatism – Those who reject Jesus should never be forgiven

Nicene Creed

Origin – Council of Nicaea, 325 CE

Response to Arian heresy – Christ created by God, not co-eternal with God

Used by Orthodox/East and Catholic/West

9th Century – Western churches added *Filioque* - Spirit proceeds from Father *and the son*

Trinity (Doctrine)

Interpretation from Bible, but never found directly stated

“God is three persons sharing one essence”

 Person = Persona (Mask [Grk])

1 "Icon of the Trinity" by Andrei Rublev

Two Rules of Trinitarian Thinking:

1. Works of the Father/Son/Holy Spirit are indivisible
2. *Perichoresis* (Dancing Around [Grk]) – Trinity is one as a divine community who live with and for and in one another in mutual openness, freedom, and self-giving love.

*We inevitably emphasize either One at the expense of the Three, or Three at the expense of the One. The Trinity is a mystery to be confessed, not a mathematical problem to be solved.*

*~Shirley Guthrie,* Christian Doctrine