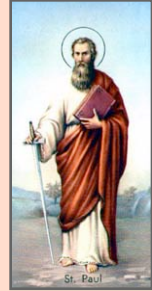


Continuing in the Apostles' Teaching...

# NICENE CREED

## Part One



Notes...

### Introduction

The Nicene Creed was composed in two parts. First, at the first great Council of Nicea (whence the name of the Creed), A.D. 325, the first two articles were drafted. That Creed originally ended with "And in the Holy Spirit." The third article on the Holy Spirit and the Church was framed at the second ecumenical council, Constantinople I, in 381.

### The First Article

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

1. The original Creed was in the plural ("we believe") but in its use in the liturgy it was from the very beginning confessed in the singular. Why do you think that might be?
2. Historically, the Creed took some time establishing itself in the regular Divine Service of the Western Church - it wasn't accepted generally in Rome itself until just after 1000 A.D. Why would its regular use be important?
3. What is the significance of the "one"? Cf. 1 Cor. 8:4-6 and Deuteronomy 6:4.
4. What is unique about the Confession that the one God is "Father"? Cf. Luke 11:2 and John 20:11-18 and Ephesians 3:14,15
5. What is the stress on "Almighty"? What does this mean? Cf. Psalm 93:1,2
6. What does it mean to confess that this One God, who is Father, is the Maker? Cf. Genesis 1:1; Psalm 95:6,7; Psalm 100:3; Isaiah 40:28
7. What does it mean to confess that He is the Maker not only of what we see, but also of what is "invisible" - not seen? Cf. Colossians 1:16
8. Lutherans didn't only confess the Nicene Creed in prose, but in poetry. What aspects of the Creed does our Hymn Paraphrase draw out?

We all believe in one true God, / Who created earth and heaven,  
The Father, who to us in love / Has the right of children given.  
He in soul and body feeds us; / All we need His hand provides us;  
Through all snare and perils leads us, / Watching that no harm betide us.  
He cares for us by day and night / All things are governed by His might.

LSB 954:1