

Study Guide for *Creeds of Christendom*, by Philip Schaff

Extra Reading for the course: "The Apostles' Creed"

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Read Philip Schaff, *Creeds of Christendom*, using the review questions below:

Chapter 1

1. How does Schaff define a "creed"?
2. What is the most fundamental origin of creeds?
3. For Protestants, how much authority do creeds have?
4. What are the important uses of creeds?

Chapter 2

1. Describe the doctrinal emphasis of the creeds of the Ancient Church, the Greek or Oriental Church, the Roman Catholic Church, and the Evangelical Protestant Church.
2. Which of the early ecumenical creeds is most popular among the western churches?
3. Which creed does the author consider "...by far the best popular summary of the Christian faith ever made within so brief a space"?
4. Give a brief description of the key doctrines that are emphasized in each of the following creeds: The Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Creed of Chalcedon, and the Athanasian Creed.
5. What is the difference between the original version of the Nicene Creed (325 AD) and the later version drafted in Constantinople, sometimes called the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed (381 AD)?
6. What is the difference between the eastern version of the Nicene Creed and the western version?

Chapter 3, section 11

1. Has the Orthodox Greek Church changed their doctrinal position with regard to the key doctrines in the early ecumenical creeds?

Chapter 4, sections 22, 24, 27, 31, and 36

1. What is the difference between the creeds of the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Greek Church?

2. Describe the key doctrines that have been adopted by the Roman Catholic Church, in opposition to the doctrines of the Reformation.

3. Describe the key Vatican decisions of the Roman Catholic Church.

4. During what years did the Council of Trent meet?

5. To what movement was the Council of Trent responding?

6. Does Schaff believe that the Council of Trent stated the Protestant doctrines accurately?

7. Were Greek Orthodox theologians and Protestant theologians invited to the Council of Trent?

8. Describe the key characteristics of Jansenism.

9. During what years did the Vatican Council meet?

10. Were Greek Orthodox theologians and Protestant theologians invited to the Vatican Council?

11. What was the most important doctrine affirmed by the Vatican Council?

12. What was the main doctrinal point of the "old catholic" movement?

Chapter 5

1. Schaff calls medieval Catholicism "the _____ of the Reformation, the _____ of modern civilization."

2. What question of conscience started the Reformation?

3. What is the Protestant rule of life and faith?

4. How are we justified, according to Protestant doctrine?

5. Schaff says, "Protestantism is the Christianity of the _____; Romanism, the Christianity of _____."
6. "Protestantism is the religion of _____ communion of the soul with Christ through personal faith."
7. "Protestantism is the Christianity of personal conviction and _____ experience."
8. What medieval theologian had the greatest influence on the reformers?
9. Describe the unique theological convictions of the Protestant reformers.
10. What doctrinal issue kept Luther from uniting with Zwingli at the conference in Marburg?
11. Describe the reaction of Luther when Zwingli attempted to establish unity between them.
12. What is the first and most important Lutheran creed?
13. Describe the key characteristics of the historical Anglican Church.