

both believed and practiced. One is quickly surprised at how quickly the church became liturgical. But it should be remembered that liturgy is generally regarded as a means of protecting the truth and safe-guarding the practices of the group.

The  
Apostles'  
Creed.

4. The Apostles' Creed...The essential portions of which may be as old as 150 AD. It seems to have been formulated as a confession to be given by those seeking admission to the church, probably used at the time of baptism. Augustine seems to suggest that the strict wording of the creed was not always required but that such a credal form of spiritual identification was both necessary and useful. Both Irenaeus and Tertullian offer references to the existence of such a creed although we cheerfully concede today that the wording has varied through the centuries. This ancient creed has gone through certain changes and we sketch the credal phraseology as follows for the general point of class progress.

AD 150

AD 350

AD 700

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| <p>I. I believe in one God the Father Almighty (1)</p> <p>II. and in Jesus Christ, God's Son, our Lord Born of the Virgin Mary Under Pontius Pilate crucified and buried The third day risen from the dead Ascended into heaven And seated on the right hand of the Father From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. (7)</p> <p>(III) And in the Holy Ghost The Holy Church The forgiveness of sins The resurrection of the flesh. (8) (9) (10) (11)</p> | <p>I. I believe in One God the Father Almighty (1)</p> <p>II. and in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary Under Pontius Pilate crucified and buried, The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. (8) (9) (10) (11)</p> <p>III. And in the Holy Ghost The Holy Catholic Church the forgiveness of sins the resurrection of the flesh (8) (9) (10) (11)</p> | <p>I. I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. (1)</p> <p>II. And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary. Suffered under Pontius Pilate was crucified, dead and buried: He descended into Hell The third day he rose again from the dead He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7)</p> <p>III. And in the Holy Ghost The Holy Catholic Church The forgiveness of sins The resurrection of the body and the life everlasting Amen. (8) (9) (10) (11)</p> |
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From this sketch you can see how creeds grow and you may well understand that the changes occur to strengthen some point which is currently in dispute or discussion. These versions (above) have witnesses in the earlier form (Irenaeus) the middle form (Rufinus) and the later form, Gregory III. This latter form has come to be the standard expression in the western church although there have been alterations in our day .. "holy Christian church", etc.