

5. The Nicene Creed.

The Nicene Creed really belongs to the next portion of our notes but we give it here as it capsulizes what had been understood during this period. It is also interesting to read it in the light of the Apostles Creed. We will pick up the history later and you may then recall that the Creed is given at this place:

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things seen and unseen;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father, unique, that is, of the substance of the Father, God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, those that are in Heaven and those that are on earth, Who for us men and for our salvation, came down and was incarnate and was made man, He suffered and rose again the third day, ascended into Heaven, and is coming to judge the living and the dead;

And in the Holy Spirit.

To this was appended a codicil for reasons which you will quickly understand:

But those who are saying: "There was time when He was not," and "Before He was begotten He was not," and "He came into Being out of non-being," or are saying that His essence or substance is different, or created, or altered, or changed, the holy, universal, and apostolic Church accurses.

We will offer no further credal notes but these should be sufficient to show our point as to what was believe and what was expressed.

The
Nicene
Creed

Theological
Summaries:

Theology
Proper

E. Summaries of Theological Ideas in the Ante-Nicene Period.

1. Theology Proper: The doctrines of God, the Godhead, etc.

a. This is summarized very nicely, I think, in the terms of Irenaeus as they are quoted by Kelly (p. 89). It seems to represent very precisely the thinking of the age in the matter of theology proper.