

# The Biblical and Christian Worldview: The Lens through which We Look at Ourselves and the World

*According to the Structure and Pattern of the Apostles' Creed*

## I believe in God

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For **his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.** So they are without excuse. (Romans 1:19-20, ESV)

For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that **the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them** on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (Romans 2:14-16, ESV)

“Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? **If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children,** how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 7:9-12, ESV)

**Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.** A servant who deals wisely has the king's favor, but his wrath falls on one who acts shamefully. (Proverbs 14:34-35, ESV)

For **although they knew God, they did not honor him as God** or give thanks to him, but **they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.** Claiming to be wise, **they became fools,** and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because **they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator,** who is blessed forever! Amen. For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since **they did not see fit to acknowledge God,** God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. **Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.** (Romans 1:21-32, ESV)

## **the Father Almighty,**

Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, **his spirit was provoked within him** as he saw that the city was full of idols. (Acts 17:16, ESV)

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ **What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.**” (Acts 17:22-23, ESV)

...from childhood **you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:15-17, ESV)

All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and **no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.** (Matthew 11:27, ESV)

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? **Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? **Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?** The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.” (John 14:6-10, ESV)

But when the goodness and loving kindness of **God our Savior** appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of **the Holy Spirit**, whom he poured out on us richly through **Jesus Christ our Savior**, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:4-7, ESV)

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “**Jesus is Lord**” except in the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but **the same Spirit**; and there are varieties of service, but **the same Lord**; and there are varieties of activities, but it is **the same God** who empowers them all in everyone. (1 Corinthians 12:3-6, ESV)

## **Maker of heaven and earth.**

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And **let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.**” So **God created man in his own image**, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and **fill the earth and subdue it** and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Genesis 1:26-28, ESV)

“The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And **he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth**, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place...” (Acts 17:24-26, ESV)

He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. **What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.**” (Matthew 19:4-6, ESV)

**Children, obey your parents in the Lord**, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” **Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.** (Ephesians 6:1-4, ESV)

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;**

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that **everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.**” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that **repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations**, beginning from Jerusalem.” (Luke 24:44-47, ESV)

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that **he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures**, and that **he appeared** to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then **he appeared** to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then **he appeared** to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, **he appeared also to me.** (1 Corinthians 15:3-8, ESV)

**I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.** I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. **As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.** (John 17:14-18, ESV)

**And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:17, ESV)

**Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him.** This is my rule in all the churches. (1 Corinthians 7:17, ESV)

**Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.** For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For **each will have to bear his own load.** (Galatians 6:2-5, ESV)

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, **as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone,** and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (Galatians 6:9-10, ESV)

Jesus said to them, “**Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.**” And they marveled at him. (Mark 12:17, ESV)

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For **there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.** Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for **he is God's servant for your good.** But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore **one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.** For the same reason you also pay taxes, for **the authorities are ministers of God,** attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. (Romans 13:1-7, ESV)

And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.” But Peter and the apostles answered, “**We must obey God rather than men.**” (Acts 5:27-29, ESV)

**He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But **our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,** who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (Philippians 3:17-21, ESV)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And **he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church.** He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (Colossians 1:15-20, ESV)

## **I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

And when he comes, **he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment... When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth**, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. **He will glorify me**, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. (John 16:8, 13-14, ESV)

But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-25, ESV)

Finally, brothers, **whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.** (Philippians 4:8, ESV)

## **the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,**

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For **flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.** And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.** I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 16:15-19, ESV)

For **the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.** For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? **Where is the debater of this age?** Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. **For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.** (1 Corinthians 1:18-24, ESV)

“This is my commandment, **that you love one another as I have loved you. ... You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you** that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ... If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” (John 15:12, 16, 18-19, ESV)

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, **so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.** Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ... Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. **Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.** (Ephesians 4:28-29, 31-32, ESV)

## **the forgiveness of sins,**

“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; **let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.** For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For **as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.** For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; **it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.**” (Isaiah 55:6-11, ESV)

## **the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. **Before him will be gathered all the nations,** and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit **the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.**’ ... Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into **the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.**’” (Matthew 25:31-34, 41, ESV)

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also **in Christ shall all be made alive.** But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **The last enemy to be destroyed is death.** (1 Corinthians 15:20-26, ESV)

**Amen.**

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