

The earliest creeds are Trinitarian in form. Incidentally, a creed is a formal statement of belief -- the word "creed" comes from the Latin *credo*, which means "I believe." The earliest form of the Apostles' Creed, and every form thereafter, has three articles: one for each of the Persons of the godhead. The Nicene Creed of AD 325 has a Trinitarian form, and asserts that the Lord Jesus Christ is "true God of true God," "of one substance with the Father," and that by Him "all things were made."<sup>6</sup> The Constantinopolitan Creed of AD 381 also has a Trinitarian form, and asserts that the Holy Spirit "with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified."<sup>7</sup> The Chalcedonian Creed of AD 451 asserts that the Son of God is perfect in Godhead," "very God," and "consubstantial with the Father as touching His Godhead."<sup>8</sup> But the classic creedal statement on the Trinity is that found in the Athanasian Creed of the fifth or sixth century, which statement I simply, quote:

The universal faith is this: that we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the substance. For there is one Person of the Father; another of the Son; and another of the Holy Spirit. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is all one; the glory equal, the majesty coeternal. Such as the Father is, such is the son, and such is the Holy Spirit. The Father uncreated, the Son uncreated. and the Holy Spirit uncreated. The Father unlimited, the Son unlimited, and the Holy Spirit unlimited. The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Spirit eternal. And yet they are not three eternals, but one eternal. As also there are not three uncreated, nor three unlimiteds, but one uncreated and one unlimited. So likewise the Father is omnipotent, the Son omnipotent. and the Holy Spirit omnipotent. And yet they are not three omnipotents, but one omnipotent. So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. And yet they are not three Gods, but one God. So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Spirit Lord. And yet not three Lords, but one Lord. For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity to acknowledge every Person by himself to be God and Lord; so we are forbidden by the universal religion to say, There are three Gods, or three Lords. The Father is made of none; neither