

Ephesians

4:1-16

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Chapter 3 Review

- Jews and Gentiles are now One in Christ
- The Gentiles were a lost, deprived people with no hope

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

- The “**Mystery**”
- The **Church Age** - ... gathering of a fellowship of believers in the Church that is led by the Lord Jesus Christ
- The Chapter ends with Paul lifting up the Church with Prayer and Praise

Today: Ephesians 4:1-16

Unity in the Body of Christ

Deep Theological Truths

Ephesians 4 is a turning point in this letter

Paul shifts the focus from **theological exposition** to **practical exhortation**

Putting our Position into Practice!

Verses 1-2 – Putting our Position into Practice

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

Verses 3-6 – The Seven One's

3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Verse 7 – Diversity in Grace

7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Verse 8 – Special Spiritual Gifts

8 Therefore it says,

*“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men.”[a]*

Psalm 68:18

Verses 9-10 – Deep Theological Statements

9 (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?[b] 10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

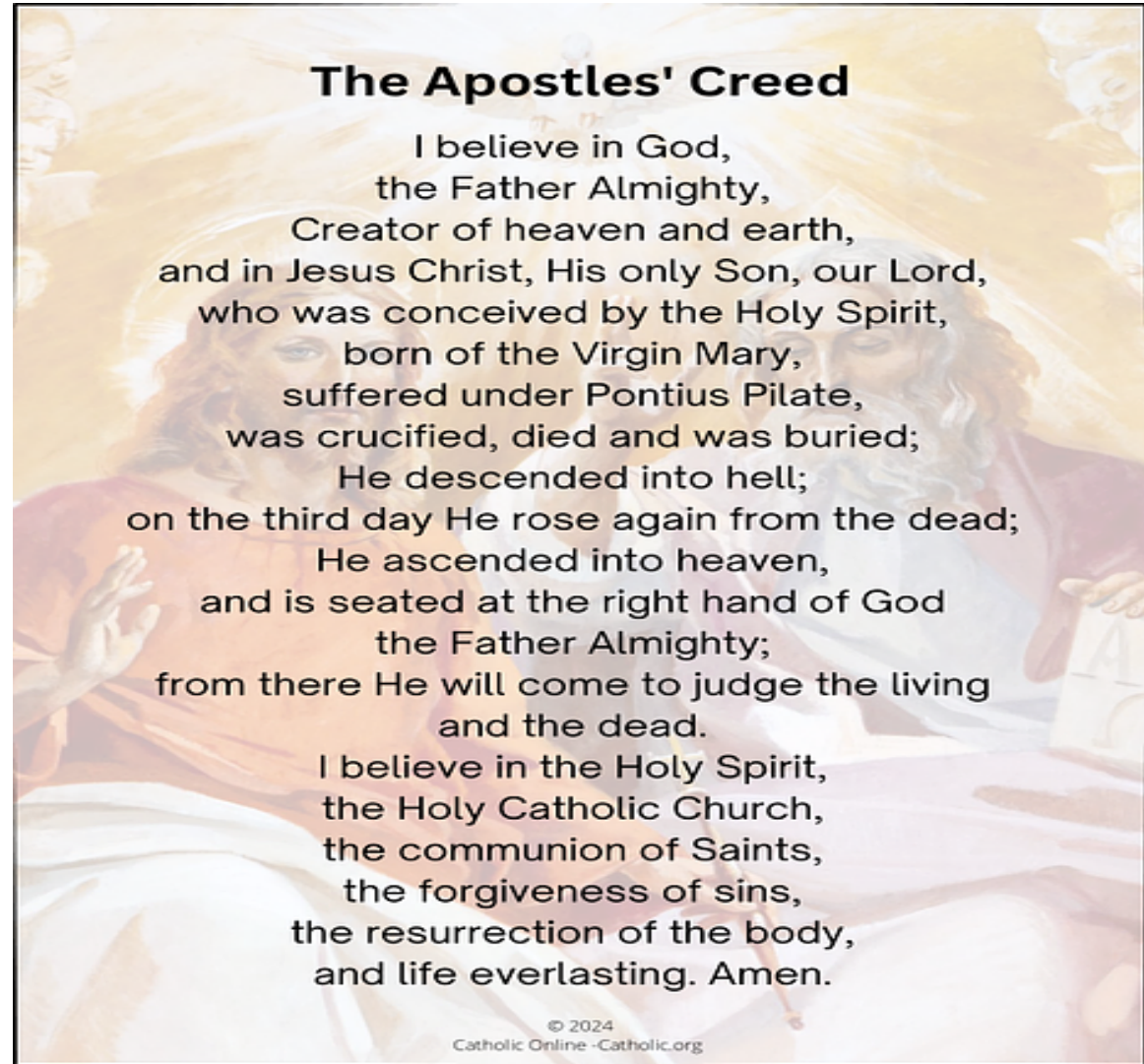
- **3 Historical Interpretations:**

1. The Incarnation
2. Jesus/ physical death and burial
3. Hades / Hell

The Apostles' Creed

Traditional Christian Statement of Faith

The **Apostles' Creed** is not found word-for-word in the Bible, but its core statements summarize key teachings from various Bible passages.



Leading Thought

- Most modern contextual analyses **favor the incarnation or the earthly grave**, noting that **Christ's suffering** was **finished on the cross**.

Verse10 – What We Do Know for Certainty

10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

- **Christ's Ascension Signifies His Total Exaltation, Victory over Sin and death, and His Rule over All**

Verse 11 – Names of Gifts Given

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds (pastors) [c] and teachers,[d]

Verse 12 – The Purpose of All This

12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

- How long will this process last? V13-14

Verses 13-14 – Ultimate Goal of the Church

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood,[e] to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Verses 15-16 – The Functioning Body

15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.