



This article is written by Pastor Tom Eckstein of Concordia Lutheran Church in Jamestown. "His Word is Truth" will appear in this paper every 3rd Monday.

His Word Is Truth!

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Today we continue our series on the Apostles' Creed which is a summary of what the Bible teaches about God and His work for us. The Bible teaches that there is only **1 God** who exists as **3 persons** – *Father, Son and Holy Spirit*. Therefore, the Apostles' Creed has **3 sections** based on the **3 persons of God** and His work of creation, redemption and sanctification.

In previous articles we examined the first section of the Apostles' Creed which teaches that God created all things and continues to provide

for us (see Genesis 1:1-3, Hebrews 1:1-3 and Matthew 6:25-34). Today we begin our examination of the second section of the Apostles' Creed where we learn about God's Son and His work of salvation. This article will deal with the following part of the Creed: **"[I believe] in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary..."**

First, **"Jesus"** is the name given to the Son of God who took on human flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary. The name "Jesus" is a Hebrew name that means "God saves" – *which is an appropriate name for Jesus, who is God in the flesh!* (See Matthew 1:22-23, John 1:14 and Colossians 2:9).

Second, God's Son is also called **"Christ"** which is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word "Messiah" – both words meaning "The Anointed One." The Old Testament Scriptures teach us that men who were chosen for

a special office, such as priest or king, were anointed with oil in a public ceremony to show that they had been chosen by God. Over time the title "The Anointed One" was used to refer to the Savior of sinners God promised to send into the world. *When Jesus was baptized, the Father declared that He was His Son and then He "anointed" Jesus with the Holy Spirit* (see Matthew 3:16-17, John 1:29-34 and Acts 10:37-38).

Third, the Bible teaches that "Jesus the Christ" is God's **ONLY Son** (see Matthew 16:16, John 1:14-18 and Hebrews 1:5-13). Simply put, Jesus exists as God's Son from all eternity (see John 17:1-5). Jesus is unique! **God's Son was not created nor is He part of creation because Jesus is the Creator along with the Father** (see John 1:1-3 and Colossians 1:12-17). *Jesus is God's Son from eternity whereas the angels and humans have been created by Jesus!* (See Hebrews 1:1-13)

Fourth, because Jesus the Christ is God's only Son we humans call Jesus **"Lord"** (see John 20:28, Philippians 2:5-11 and Revelation 22:20-21). The English word "Lord" translates the Hebrew word "Yahweh" which is the Holy name of God found in the Old Testament Scriptures. *Jesus the Christ is the God of Abraham!* (See Genesis 12:1-3, John 8:54-58 and Galatians 3:15-20)

Fifth, Jesus the Christ who is God's only Son and our Lord became human when He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary. Genesis 3:15 teaches that a male child born of "the woman" will crush the devil's power and save sinners. We learn two things from this text. **First**, there is no mention of a man in Genesis 3:15. Therefore, "the woman" will give birth of the virgin birth by the power of the Holy Spirit (see Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:20-25, Luke 1:26-37 and Galatians

4:4-5). **Second**, the male child of Genesis 3:15 will crush the devil's power. Only **GOD** can defeat the devil! *Therefore, this male child will be God Himself in human flesh!*

Now, why did the eternal Son of God become human? God's Son became human to save us from our sins against God (see Matthew 1:21, Acts 13:26-39, Romans 3:21-26, 1st Corinthians 15:1-4, Galatians 3:13-14, Colossians 1:21-23 and Hebrews 2:14-18). *However, some wrongly teach that Jesus was not God but only a man.* If that were the case, then Jesus could not have saved us from our sins nor from the power of the devil. Only God can do that! **God Himself died for our sins and then conquered death for us!**

The Bible clearly teaches that the baby conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary was Jesus the Christ, God's only Son and, therefore, our Lord! *No wonder Jesus said that He is*

God! (See Matthew 12:8 and Revelation 1:17-18) *No wonder we worship Jesus as God!* (See Matthew 2:11, 4:10, 14:33, 28:9 and 28:17) *Jesus the Christ, God's only Son, is the ONLY Savior for us lost sinners!* (See Acts 4:12) **Confess your sins and trust in Jesus today!**

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Please read the next "His Word is Truth" on Monday, April 16th! Pastor Eckstein will continue his series on the Apostles' Creed with the following part of the 2nd article: "....suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried."

For more resources about Christian teaching and issues, go to Concordia Lutheran's webpage: www.concordiajt.org

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