

The Creed of Athanasius

4. Such as the Father is, such is
the Son in each degree,
And such also we do believe
the Holy Ghost to be.
Un-create¹⁰² is the Father, and
un-create is the Son,
The Holy Ghost, un-create: so
un-create is each one.
5. Incomprehensible Father is,
incomprehensible Son,
And comprehensible also is
the Holy Ghost of none.
The Father is eternal, and
the Son eternal so,
And in like sort eternal is,
the Holy Ghost also.
6. And yet though we believe that each
of these eternal be:
Yet there but one eternal is,
and not eternal three.
As ne incomprehensible we,
ne yet un-create three,
But one incomprehensible, one
un-create hold to be.
7. Almighty so the Father is,
the Son almighty so,
And in like sort almighty is
the Holy Ghost also,
And albeit that every one
of these almighty be:
Yet there but one almighty is,
and not almighty three.
8. The Father God is, God the Son,
God the Holy Ghost also:
Yet are there not three gods in all,
but one God and no more.
So likewise Lord the Father is,
and Lord also the Son,
And Lord the Holy Ghost: yet are
there not three lords, but one.
9. For as we are compelled to grant
by Christian verity,
Each of the persons by himself
both God and Lord to be.
So Catholic religion
forbiddeth us alway
That either gods be three, or that
there lords be three to say.
10. Of none the Father is, ne made
ne create, nor begot:
The Son is of the Father, not
create ne made but got.
The Holy Ghost is of them both,
the Father and the Son,
Ne made, ne create, nor begot,
but doth proceed alone.
11. So we one Father hold, not three:
one Son also not three:
One Holy Ghost alone, and not
three holy ghosts to be.
None in this trinity before,
nor after other is:
Ne greater any then the rest,
ne lesser be likewise.
12. But every one among themselves,
of all the persons three:
Together coeternal all,
and all coequal be.
So unity in trinity,
as said it is before:
And trinity in unity
in all things we adore.
13. Therefore what man so ever that
salvation will attain:
This faith touching the trinity:
of force he must retain.
And needful to eternal life
it is that every wight¹⁰³
Of the incarnating of Christ
our Lord believe aright.
14. For this the right faith is, that we
believe and eke be-know,
That Christ our Lord the Son of God,
is God and man also,
God in his Father's substance, got
before the world began:
And of his mother's substance, born
in world a very man.

¹⁰² Uncreated.

¹⁰³ Person, human being.

15. Both perfect God and perfect man
in one Jesus Christ
That doth of reasonable soul,
an human flesh subsist,
Touching his Godhead equal with
his Father God is he.
Touching his man-head lower than
his Father in degree.
16. Who though he be both very God
and very man also:
Yet is he but one Christ alone
and is not persons two.
One not by turning of Godhead
into the flesh of man:
But by taking manhood to God
this being one began.
17. All one, not by confounding of
the substance into one:
But only by the unity
that is of one person.
For as the reasonable soul
and flesh but one man is:
So in one person God and man
is but one Christ likewise.
18. Who suffered for to save us all
to hell he did descend:
The third day rose again from dead,
to heaven he did ascend.
He sits at the right hand of God
th'almighty Father there:
From thence to judge the quick and the dead
again he shall retire.
19. At whose return all men shall rise
with bodies new restored:
And of their own works they shall give
account unto the Lord.
And they into eternal life
shall go that have done well,
Who have done ill shall go into
eternal fire to dwell.
20. This is the catholic belief,
who doth not faithfully
Believe the same, without all doubt
he saved cannot be.
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
all glory be therefore,
As in beginning was, is now,
and shall be evermore.