

The Holy Catholic Church

The Church

The holy catholic church.

- Holy – devoted to God.
- Catholic
 - Universal – of interest or use to all; all-embracing
 - In contrast to local
 - Orthodox – holding correct or currently accepted opinions (Oxford Dictionary)
 - Orthodox – sound in Christian faith; believing the genuine doctrines taught in the Scriptures; “according to the doctrines of Scripture”. (Webster 1828)
 - In contrast to heretical.

Orthodox

- 2John 1:4-11
- “I want what it says but I do not want Jesus.”
- “I want Jesus but not the church – scripture – theology”
 - Theology – Theo & logos – rational thought about God
- How do you choose a church?
- Galatians 1:6-9

Jesus, God in the flesh

- To the Greeks – logos – reason – the ultimate God
- Jews – word of God – wisdom

Gnosticism

- Unnamed God – spiritual and good
- Aeons – Emanations – like beams from the sun.
- The world was divided between good and evil.
- All matter was evil.
- The god who created matter would be evil.
- Three classes of people: (1) those who lived by faith were the lower spiritual class, (2) the upper class, the illuminated or the perfect, lived by knowledge (gnosis), and (3) those not capable to “seeing” or knowing even under the best teacher.
- The “learned” thinking of the day.
- From the writings of the Apologists

- 1. The *Logos as the reason or wisdom resident in the mind of God—God always has his reason immanent in himself.*
- 2. The *Logos as the spoken or articulated word—God spoke forth his word, especially in creating the world, giving a separate existence to his word but not emptying himself of his reason.*
- 3. The *Logos as immanent in the world—God planted his reason in the universe, giving rational order to creation, and in the minds of human beings, thereby inspiring philosophy, art, literature, etc. (both the word or wisdom of God as the agent of creation, and the seminal word in each person, are an image of the divine, so more than human reason is intended).*
- 4. The *Logos as the revealed word of God in the prophets.*
- 5. The *Logos as incarnate in Jesus—the divine word became flesh as a personal human being.*

Apostle's Creed

- I believe in God Almighty, And in Christ Jesus, his only Son, our Lord,
- Who was born of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
- Who was crucified under Pontius Pilate and was buried
- And the third day rose from the dead
- Who ascended into heaven, And sits on the right hand of the Father
- Whence he comes to judge the living and the dead
- And in the Holy Ghost, The holy church, The remission of sins, The resurrection of the flesh, The life everlasting.