

# THE ~~CREED~~

Our core beliefs

másvida

# OUR FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS

As a church, we have been studying the Apostles' Creed, one of the oldest and most fundamental documents of the Christian faith.

In this brief guide, you can find a synthesis of what we have seen and have the keys at hand.

In the midst of so much noise and confusion around us, knowing what we believe is vital because it determines who we live for, why we live, how we live, and where we will live eternally.

Our beliefs are the foundations on which we build our thoughts on and which we build our life around. A creed of faith helps us know and remember what we believe.

It is important to mention that the Apostles' Creed is a secondary document. It is not the Bible, it is not authentic, it is not exhaustive and it is not Scripture; it has no power to save. However, the Creed points to the Truth.

On these pages, you can also find our Declaration of Faith of Más Vida Church, and the fundamental beliefs we share as a church. It is good to read them again and visit the biblical passages supporting these beliefs.

My prayer is that as a church we will have a solid and well-established faith, always ready and prepared. As the epistle says, to be ready to respond to anyone who asks us for the reason of the hope that is in us.

With love:

Andres Spyker  
Senior Pastor of Masvida Church

# THE APOSTLES' CREED

<sup>1</sup> I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; (Genesis 1:1, Genesis 17:1, Deut 6:4, John 1:1, James 1:17-18)

<sup>2</sup> And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; (Mathew 16:13-16 John 3:16, Acts 2:36)

<sup>3</sup> Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, (Mathew 1:18)  
born of the Virgin Mary, (Luke 1:26-38)

<sup>4</sup> suffered under Pontius Pilate; (Mathew 27:24; Luke 23:23-35)  
was crucified, died, and was buried; (1 Peter 2:24)

<sup>5a</sup> He descended into hell; (1 Peter 3:18-20, Mathew 27:46)

<sup>5b</sup> on the third day he rose again from the dead; (Mathew 12:40)

<sup>6</sup> he ascended to heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; (Mark 16:19; 1 Timothy 2:5)

<sup>7</sup> from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. (Acts 1:9-11, 2 Timothy 4:1)

<sup>8</sup> I believe in the Holy Spirit, (Juan 15:26)

<sup>9</sup> the Holy Universal Church, (John 17:11; 1 Cor 12:12-13; Revelation 8:3-4)

the communion of saints, (John 14:17, 23)

<sup>10</sup> the forgiveness of sins, (Mathew 6:14-15; Revelation 1:5)

<sup>11</sup> the resurrection of the body, (Acts 24:15)

<sup>12</sup> and eternal life. Amen. (1 John 5:11-12)

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## **What is the Apostles' Creed?**

A creed is a summary of the main beliefs of the faith. In the case of the Apostles' Creed, it is a statement that summarizes the fundamental beliefs that all Christians have.

## **What is the origin of the Apostles' Creed?**

The Apostles' Creed originated in the Early Church. Its writing and compilation dates back to the second century after Christ.

## **Did the apostles write the Creed?**

The apostles did not write the Apostles' Creed, but many statements that were expressed in this church document are attributed to the apostles.

The apostles inspired this declaration of faith. The Apostles' Creed, as we know it, is attributed to the writers Ignatius of Antioquia (written around 105 AD) and Irenaeus (180 AD).

## **Why is it important to know the Creed?**

The Apostles' Creed brings together the fundamental beliefs of our Christian faith. Knowing what it says, learning it, and/or memorizing it helps us give strength to our faith. It is important to know what we believe in!

## **What is the difference between the Apostles' Creed and the Catholic Church Creed?**

Both the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed, which is also recited in the Catholic Church, are part of a large group of confessions and documents that have emerged over the centuries to shape our Christian faith.

Specifically, the Nicene Creed, also known as NiceneConstantinopolitan, is a statement similar to the Apostles' Creed but that was modified a few years later to put more emphasis on the Trinity and divinity of Jesus.

The Nicene Creed dates back to the fourth century, therefore, it is later than that of the Apostles.

## **Why do we give the Creed importance if it does not come in the Bible?**

It is logical to think that we only need the Bible and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to form our Christian faith.

However, even the first Christians, who had the Word of God and the Spirit of God, also needed the Apostle Paul to explain and clarify some things to them.

The Apostles' Creed, and other similar documents that are part of the Church's bibliography that aims to express the essential things in which Christians believe.

Its purpose is to define sound doctrine, just as the apostles received it directly from our Lord Jesus Christ and it was passed down from generation to generation.

# MÁS VIDA'S DECLARATION OF FAITH

## **The Holy Bible**

The Bible, and only the Bible, is the complete Word of God. It is the final authority in the determination of all doctrinal truths. In its original scripture, it is inspired by God, infallible and unequivocal.

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Proverbs 30:5; Romans 16:25-26

## **Trinity**

There is only one God, eternally coexisting in three persons: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and co-eternal.

1 John 5:7; Genesis 1:26; Mathew 3:16-17, 28:19; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 9:6; Hebrews 3:7-11

## **Jesus Christ**

Jesus Christ is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity. On earth, Jesus was 100% God and 100% man. He is the only man who has lived a sinless life. He was born of a virgin, performed miracles, died on the cross for humanity, and through the shedding of his blood, expiated us from our sins. He rose from the dead on the third day and, according to the Scriptures, ascended to the right hand of the Father and will return in power and glory.

John 1:1,14; John 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 9:6; Philippians 2:5-6; 1 Timothy 2:5

## **Virgin birth**

Jesus Christ was conceived by God the Father, by the Holy Spirit (the third person of the Trinity) in Mary's womb. Therefore, he is the Son of God.

Mathew 1:18, 25; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:27-35

## **Redemption**

Man was created good and upright, but by his voluntary transgression he fell; his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Genesis 1:26-31, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-21

## **Regeneration**

Regeneration by the Holy Spirit is essential for anyone to know God.

John 6:44, 65; Mathew 19:28; Titus 3:5

## **Salvation**

We are saved by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ: his death, burial, and resurrection. Salvation is a gift from God, not a result of our good works or any human effort.

Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16, 3:8; Titus 3:5; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 16:31; Hebrews 9:22

## **Repentance**

Repentance is the commitment to turn away from sin in every area of our lives and follow Christ, which allows us to receive his redemption and be transformed by the Holy Spirit. Thus, through repentance, we receive the forgiveness of sins and salvation.

Acts 2:21, 3:19; 1 John 1:9

## **Sanctification**

Sanctification is the continuous process of molding ourselves to the Word of God and his Spirit to complete the development of Christ's character in us. It is through the work of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God that the Christian can live a life that honors and reflects God.

1 Thessalonians 4:3, 5:23; 2 Corinthians 3:18, 6:14-18, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, Romans 8:29, 12:1-2; Hebrews 2:11

## **The value of human life**

We believe that from the creation of the human being in the image of God, human life is of invaluable value and meaning in all its dimensions, from conception to its death.

Genesis 1:27; Psalms 139:13-14

## **The blood of Jesus**

The blood that Jesus Christ shed on the Cross at Calvary was sinless and is 100% sufficient to cleanse humanity of all sin. Jesus allowed himself to be punished both for our sinfulness and our sins, allowing all who believe in him to be free from the punishment of sin, which is death.

1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5, 5:9; Colossians 1:20; Romans 3:10-12, 23; Romans 5

## **Jesus Christ in all believers**

Es la promesa del Padre, dada en Pentecostés, enviada por Jesús después de su ascensión, de empoderar a la Iglesia para predicar el Evangelio por toda la tierra.

Joel 2:28-29; Mateo 3:11; Marcos 16:17; Hechos 1:5, 2:1-4, 17, 38-39, 8:14-17, 10:38, 44-47, 11:15-17, 19:1-6

## **Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

- It is the promise of the Father, given at Pentecost, sent by Jesus after his

ascension, to empower the Church to preach the Gospel throughout the earth.

Joel 2:28-29; Mathew 3:11; Mark 16:17; Acts 1:5, 2:1-4, 17, 38-39, 8:14-17, 10:38, 44-47, 11:15-17, 19:1-6

### **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit manifests himself through a variety of spiritual gifts, to build and sanctify the church, demonstrate the validity of the resurrection and confirm the power of the Gospel. Gifts can occur in several combinations. All believers are commanded to fervently desire the manifestation of these gifts in their lives. These gifts always operate in harmony with the Scriptures and should never be used in violation of biblical parameters.

Hebrews 2:4; Romans 1:11, 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:16; 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6-7; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31, 14:1-40; 1 Peter 4:10

### **Body of Christ (The Church)**

The Church is the Body of Christ, the dwelling place of the Spirit of God, which is composed of all those who have received Jesus as their Savior; it is the divine tool for the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

There is a spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that the Lord knows those who are his regardless of the religious denomination.

Ephesians 1:22, 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23; John 17:11, 20-23; Romans 10:9-10; John 1:11-12

### **Autonomy of the local church**

We believe in the autonomy of the local church. Colossians 1:18 "Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything." Jesus Christ is the head of the Church. The biblical model is that each local church has an organized, integral, and capable leadership to lead the church according to the vision that God has given them. In Más Vida it is our pastoral team. We recognize the value of partnering and cooperating with other Christian groups, but we believe that each local church must have its government.

### **Sacraments**

They are institutions entrusted to the church by Jesus Christ as a proclamation of the work of salvation, and they are symbols of the sacrifice, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

**Baptism in water:** Following faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the new believer is ordained by the Word of God to be baptized in water in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Mathew 28:19; Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12, 36-38; 10:47-48

**Communion:** It is a unique moment of communion in the presence of God when the elements of bread and grape juice (the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ) are taken in memory of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

Mathew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 11:23-25

**Marriage:** We believe that marriage is defined in the Bible as a covenant, a sacred bond between a man and a woman, instituted by God, and that sex was created to be enjoyed within the context of a marriage relationship.

Mathew 19:4-6

### **Healing of the sick**

The healing of the sick is illustrated in the life and ministry of Jesus and is included in Jesus' commission to his disciples. It is given as a sign for believers. It is also a part of Jesus' work on the cross and one of the gifts of the Spirit.

Psalms 103:2-3; Isaiah 53:5; Mathew 8:16-17; Mark 16:17-18; Acts 8:6-7; James 5:14-16; 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28; Romans 11:29

### **God's provision for our lives**

It is the Father's will that believers be complete, healthy, and successful in all areas of life. Due to the fall, many may not receive all the benefits of God's will while on earth, but that fact should never prevent all believers from seeking all the benefits of Christ's provision to better serve others.

**Spiritual:** John 3: 3-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Romans 10:9-10

**Mental and emotional:** John 3: 3-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Romans 10:9-10 1 Timothy 1:7, 2:11; Phillipians 4:7-5; Romans 12:2; Isaiah 26:3

**Physical:** Isaiah 53:4,5; Mathew 8:17; 1 Peter 2:24

**Finances:** Joshua 1:8; Malachi 3:10-11; Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:6-10; Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Psalms 34:10, 84:11; Phillipians 4:19

### **Offerings and tithes**

We believe that it is the duty and privilege of every believer who, within their abilities, brings their presence, service, and generosity to the church. Tithes, accompanied by voluntary offerings, are an ordinance of God and the method to finance the spread of the gospel and the needs of the local church.

• Acts 10:25; 2 Corinthians 8:8; 1 Peter 4:10; Genesis 14:20; Malachi 3:8-12; 2 Corinthians 8:9

## **Evangelism and missions**

We believe in the evangelistic and missionary work and commitment, known as the Great Commission of the Church.

Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15-18

## **Resurrection**

Jesus Christ was physically resurrected from the dead in a glorified body, three days after his death on the cross. In addition, both the saved and the lost will be resurrected; those who are saved to the resurrection of life and those who are lost to the resurrection of eternal damnation.

Luke 24:16, 36, 39; John 2:19-21, 20:26-28, 21:4; Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:42, 44; Phillipians 1:21-23, 3:21

## **Heaven**

Heaven is the eternal dwelling place for all believers in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Mathew 5:3, 12, 20, 6:20, 19:21, 25:34; John 17:24; 2 Corinthians 5:1; Hebrews 11:16; 1 Peter 1:4

## **Hell**

After living a life on earth, unbelievers will be judged by God and sent to Hell where they will be eternally tormented by the devil and the fallen angels.

Mathew 25:41; Mark 9:43-48; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 14:9-11, 20:12-15, 21:8

## **Second Coming**

Jesus Christ will return to earth a second time, physically and visibly, to establish his Kingdom. This will happen on a date that has not been revealed in the Scriptures.

Mathew 24:30, 26:63-64; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8; Revelation 1:7 Apocalipsis 1:7

## **MORE INFORMATION**

If you liked this series and inspired interest to study The Creed in a detailed way, we want to invite you to take **THE APOSTLES' CREED** class that will be taught by Ps. Andrés Spyker, Ps. Juan Spyker, Ps. Roberto Evans, Ps. Julio Loreto in September.

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