

THE APOSTLES' CREED – THE THIRD ARTICLE

These articles of the Creed, therefore, divide and separate us Christians from all other people on earth. Even if [or: Even if we were to concede that]* all people outside Christianity—whether heathen, Turks, Jews, or false Christians and hypocrites—believe in and worship only one true God, they still do not know what His mind toward them is and cannot expect any love or blessing from Him. Therefore, they abide in eternal wrath and damnation. For they do not have the Lord Christ, and, besides, are not illumined and favored by any gifts of the Holy Spirit [1 Cor. 2:9–16; Hebrews 6:4–6].

From this you see that the Creed is a doctrine quite different from the Ten Commandments. For the Commandments teach what we ought to do. But the Creed tells what God does for us and gives to us. Furthermore, apart from this, the Ten Commandments are written in all people's hearts [Romans 2:15]. However, no human wisdom can understand the Creed. It must be taught by the Holy Spirit alone [1 Corinthians 2:12]. The teaching «of the Commandments», therefore, makes no Christian. For God's wrath and displeasure abide upon us still, because we cannot keep what God demands of us. But the Creed brings pure grace and makes us godly and acceptable to God. For by this knowledge we have love and delight in all God's commandments [Romans 7:22]. Here we see that God gives Himself to us completely. He gives all that He has and is able to do in order to aid and direct us in keeping the Ten Commandments. The Father gives all creatures. The Son gives His entire work. And the Holy Spirit bestows all His gifts.

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