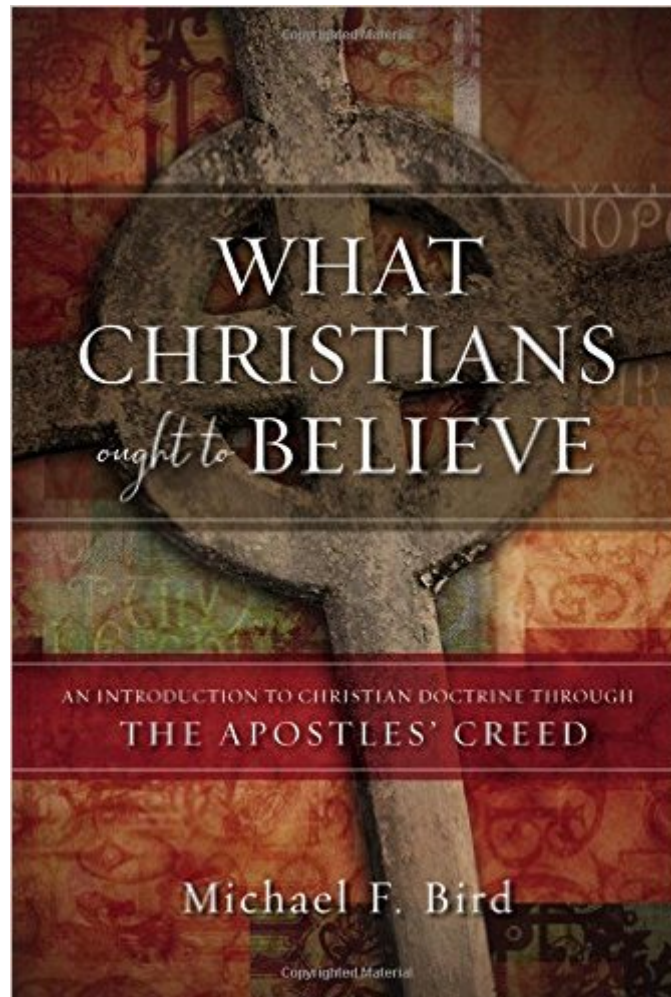


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What Christians Ought To Believe: An Introduction To Christian Doctrine Through The Apostles' Creed



Synopsis

Modern Christians have often hesitated to embrace the ancient creeds because of our *œnothing but the Bible* tradition. In *What Christians Ought to Believe* Michael Bird opens our eyes to the possibilities of the *Apostle*™s Creed as a way to explore and understand the basic teachings of the Christian faith. Bringing together theological commentary, tips for application, and memorable illustrations, *What Christians Ought to Believe* summarizes the basic tenets of the Christian faith using the *Apostle*™s Creed as its entryway. After first emphasizing the importance of creeds for the formation of the Christian faith, each chapter, following the *Creed*™s outline, introduces the Father, the Son, and the Spirit and the Church. An appendix includes the *Apostle*™s Creed in the original Latin and Greek. *What Christians Ought to Believe* is ideally suited for both the classroom and the church setting to teach beginning students and laypersons the basics of what Christians ought to affirm if they are to be called Christians.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What Christians Ought to Believe: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine Through the Apostle™ Creed by Michael F. Bird The *Apostle*™ Creed in its early reception was designed to teach people the essential truths of the Christian faith so that they might worship and live out the faith fully. Michael F. Bird, lecturer and author has written a splendid exposition of the creed here in his new book entitled *What Christians Ought to Believe*. With an insistence on including the historical development of Christianity and the way the creed represents a firm tradition set forth in the Bible, this book is a good aid in discovering the rich truths of the creed. In the opening chapter Michael

counters the concept of a "no creed but the Bible" by looking at how the pages of Scripture are filled with creedal affirmations. The shema in Deuteronomy 6, the Christ hymn in Philippians 2 and the various passages in the NT regarding the resurrection all point to a creedal foundation in the biblical texts. These creedal statements were for the purpose, at least in the NT, of outlining Jesus' career from incarnation to exaltation (20). These concise descriptions of the elements of Jesus' career carried with them great encouragement for the follower of Christ, who could easily remember and hold onto these statements in suffering and in joy. The nuances and distinctions that Michael makes in this book are extremely important. In the chapter on God the Father Almighty, Michael mentions that many have a hard time with this teaching, deeming it patriarchal and against women. Yet, he elaborates that "all theological language is analogical," and that "a sizeable number of places where God is described in maternal language (63).

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