

1 Corinthians 15:1-8 (Early 50's)

Other than the simple, but loaded, acclamation that *Jesus is Lord*, this is the fullest confessional statement in the New Testament and very early. Paul, in the early 50's, is clear that it was passed on to him as early tradition. Scholars assume it goes back to Jerusalem in the mid 30's and was formulated in Aramaic. It presumes the framework of Jewish theology and focuses on the new think that the God of Israel has done in Christ.

¹Now I would remind you, brethren, in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, ²by which you are saved, if you hold it fast—unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received:

that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures,	Astounding Claim: Messiah Died
⁴ that he was buried,	Proves Death
that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures,	Divine Vindication
⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.	Demonstrates Resurrection
⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time,	List Of Appearances
most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.	
⁷ Then he appeared to James,	
then to all the apostles.	
⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.”	Appearance To Paul

1 Corinthians 8:4-6

Here Paul places Jesus Christ within the divine sphere in contrast to the polytheism of the his world. It was necessary for the church to state the relationship of Jesus and the Father before moving on to the same clarity with the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols,	
we know that “an idol has no real existence,”	Idols Are Not God
and that “there is no God but one.”	Quotation of Jewish <i>Shema</i>
⁵ For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—	Other Powers Acknowledged
as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— ⁶	
yet for us there is one God,	Community Identity = <i>Us</i>
the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist,	
and one Lord,	O.T. title for God
Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.	Co-Creator

2. Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to Trallians 9:1-2 (circa 115 AD), Warning Against False Teaching.

“Stop your ears, therefore, when any one speaks to you at variance with Jesus Christ, who was descended from David, and was also of Mary; who was *truly* born, and did eat and drink. He was *truly* persecuted under Pontius Pilate; He was *truly* crucified, and [*truly*] died, in the sight of beings in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth. He was also *truly* raised from the dead, His Father quickening Him, even as after the same manner His Father will so raise up us who believe in Him by Christ Jesus, apart from whom we do not possess the true life.”

3. Epistula Apostolorum (circa 140-150 AD?), Clear Trinitarian Structure.

“They are a picture of our faith concerning the Great Christianity; and that is in the Father, the ruler of the entire world, and in Jesus Christ, our Savior, and in the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, and in the holy church and in the forgiveness of sins.”

THE SUNDAY SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP

Sunday August 9, 2020, 10:00am

“The mission of First United Methodist Church is to win and nurture souls for Jesus Christ by sharing and living the message of salvation.”

ENTRANCE

Songs for the Gathering of the People in the Sanctuary!

Prelude and Chiming the Hour Mary Lynn Hart
Welcome, Invitation to Silence Pastor Phil Thrailkill, Interim Minister

+Greeting Trinitarian Greeting, Old Testament Creed: Deut. 6:4-9
As the friends of God, let us bless the Lord.
Blessed be God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD;
and you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your might.
And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart;
and you shall teach them diligently to your children,
and shall talk of them when you sit in your house,
and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.
And you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand,
and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.
And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Recorded Hymn: “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

+Mutual Blessing and Common Prayer:

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray with one voice:

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, how beautiful is your sanctuary,
and how joyful to be home again in a place so full of memories.
We know that you are not contained in buildings and fill the whole creation.
But you have met us here before, in the Word preached, and in the holy sacraments.
It is here that we bring our children for baptism and our beloved dead for burial.
So come among us now by the light and gifts of your Holy Spirit.
Refresh our weary and confused hearts with fresh hope in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.
And with your help, O Lord our God,
we will never again take your people or this place for granted. Amen.**

+Act of Praise: “Glory Be to the Father” spoken in unison *Hymnal: 70*
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, in now and ever shall be.
World without end, Amen, Amen.

Concerns and Announcements

PROCLAMATION AND PRAISE

Old Testament Lesson: "The Suffering Servant" Isaiah 53:1-12

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Sermon Lesson Acts 8:26-40

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Sermon: "Classic Christianity I: Why Creeds?" Pastor Phil Thrailkill, Interim Minister

RESPONSES TO THE WORD

Silence with the Word of God and the Spirit of God

+Confessing The Trinitarian Faith of the Church

Brothers and sisters, let us love one another, that with one heart and one voice we may confess our ancient and apostolic Christian faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

+Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer: Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

SENDING FORTH

Recorded Song of Praise: "How Great is Our God" (Chris Tomlin)

+Dismissal with Blessing, Prayers at the Altar with Pastor Phil (masked) . . . Pastor Phil Thrailkill

Please leave your Offering in the basket near the door as you exit. Theodore Burns: Usher

ACTS 8:26-40 "CLASSIC CHRISTIANITY I: WHY CREEDS?"

Example Of Individual Evangelism Of High-Status By Layman

1) vv.26-33 TRANSCENDENT INITIATION THROUGH TWO MEANS. God Drives Missions

Many Angels In Luke/Acts (5:19, 10:3, 7, 22; 12:7-15, 23; 27:23)

a) v.26 Revelation: Angel Speaks, "Go". 1) REVELATION FROM ANGEL

26a But an angel of the Lord said to Philip, Story Fulfills 1:8, Angels, Acts 5:19, 10:3, 7, 22; 12:7-15; 23; 27:23
b "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." 6:3 Full Of Spirit
This is a desert road. Road Ends Here, Divine Initiation For Cross-Cultural Missions

Preparation b) vv.27-28 Philip's Obedience/ Scripture (Isaiah Referenced). 2) OBEDIENCE

(-) Eunuch: Lev. 21:20, 22:24, Dt. 23:1-2 LXX, Philo Special Laws 1.324-25

27a And he rose and went. 48-60 Trip One Way, Castrated Male In Royal Courts 3) SEE

b And behold, an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a minister of "the Candace," queen of the Ethiopians, Cush/Sudan in charge of all her treasure, had come to Jerusalem to worship Excluded From Temple vs. Is. 11:11, 56:3-5

28 and was returning; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Zeph. 3:9-10, Ps. 68:31-32 Read Aloud As Torah Study/ God-Fearer? Proselyte?

a') v.29 Revelation: Spirit Speaks To Philip, "Go". Divine Appointment, Inner Voice Of Direction?

29 And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot." 1) FURTHER REVELATION FROM SPIRIT

Hellenistic Fascination With Social Rank, 1000 Mile Journey

b') vv.30-33 Philip's Obedience/ Scripture (Isaiah Quoted). Reading Aloud In Ancient World

30 Had A Scroll; Man Of Means! 2) OBEDIENCE

31 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading (i.e. aloud) Isaiah the prophet, and asked, 3) HEAR

"Do you understand what you are reading?" Prophetic? Deeper Meanings? Assumes Levels

31 And he said, "How can I, unless some one guides me?" Good Question! Scripture Not Self-Explanatory

And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Cross-Status Teaching

32a Phillip Began With His Questions

b Now the passage of the scripture which he was reading was this: Isaiah 53:7-8 (LXX)

32b "As a sheep led to the slaughter or a lamb before its shearer is dumb, so he opens not his mouth. Trial

33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. 1) Humiliation

Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken up from the earth." 2) Exaltation/Followers

References Applied To Jesus Below

2) vv.34-39 HUMAN INITIATION THROUGH QUESTIONS/CONVERSATION. Foreshadows Gentiles Of Acts 10-11

a) v.34 Ethiopian Speaks A Question About Scripture.

34 And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, pray, does the prophet say this, about himself or about some one else?"

Dialog Not Nation (Israel), Not Himself, But Messiah

b) v.35 Philip's Response: Evangelize/ Explain The Good News.

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, Inspired Speech, Evangelist (8:12, Eph. 4:11)

Preach Jesus and beginning with this scripture he told him the good news of Jesus. Linkage, Key To All Scriptures

36 Christological Reading Of Is. // Lk. 24:13-35, 44-47

a') v.36 (37) Ethiopian Speaks A Question. Request //Acts 10:47, 11:17

36 And as they went along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, //Lk. 18:16, 11:52

Confession "See, here is water! What is to prevent my being baptized?" Spiritually Ripe! What Excludes Me This Time? Eunuch?

Baptism [37] [Other ancient manuscripts (D) add all or most of v.37, Scribal Gloss: Not Original, But Early Need For Clarity

And Phillip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." Found In Irenaeus, Against Heresies 3.22.8

And he replied, "I believe that Jesus is the Son of God." Early Creedal Statement On Jesus

Early Church Required Explicit Confession For Baptism

b') vv.38-40 Philip's Response: Baptism And Further Missionary Preaching.

38 And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Ps. 68:31-32, Zeph. 3:9-10, Is. 56:4-5, Wis. 3:14 Fulfilled

39 Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. Welcomed Into Messianic Community

And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught up Philip;

and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. //2:46, 8:8, 13:48, 52, 16:34 On Joy

40 But Philip was found at Azotus, 20 Miles North Of Gaza, Spirit-Directed Mission!

and passing on he preached the gospel to all the towns till he came to Caesarea. Up The Coast, 21:8

Elijah Parallels (2 Kgs. 1:5, 1 Kgs. 18:12, 46), Ezek. 11:24