INTRODUCTION:

The Apostle’s Creed is the most widely used creed of all the creeds of Christendom. It is the oldest of all the creeds and is one of the three ecumenical creeds. All churches which use creeds include the Apostle’s Creed as one their basic statements of faith. You can go to Protestant Churches, Lutheran Churches, Catholic Churches, and all will use the Apostle’s Creed. This is significant, for there are not many things in the church that all these Christians would agree on.

Why is it important to recite the Apostle’s Creed? 1) It defines ‘orthodox’ doctrine versus fringe or unorthodox doctrine. It presents a Trinitarian understanding of God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. (2) It gives a broad survey of Christian doctrine. It starts with creation and ends with eternal life. 3) It helps you stay grounded in truth in an increasingly skeptical world. 4) It puts all this in a brief memorable statement.

Today, let’s take the first section of this creed, see what the Biblical basis of it is and why is it important to confess it as our faith.

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

“I BELIEVE”

Note that the Apostles Creed begins with “I believe,” not “We believe.” It is a personal statement of faith. The origin of the Apostles Creed is thought to be the baptismal confession of new Christians in the early church. When a person confessed their faith and were baptized they were expected to use this creed to say what the person believed. This no doubt is why it is in the first person singular, “I believe.”

The Bible teaches that we are to confess what we believe. For example in Romans 10:9-10 it reads

**Romans 10:9-10 NKJV**  that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (10) For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
When we recite this creed as an act of worship today, we are doing it as a body of believers, but each of us is making our individual confession of faith. You are making a personal confession as well as a corporate confession of what you believe.

“**I BELIEVE IN GOD.**”

What is it that you are confessing that you believe? First that you believe in God. “I believe in God.”

The Bible says in Hebrews 11:6

**But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

The very first article of faith to confess for any believer is that you believe in God. What are we confessing when we say we believe in God? What type of “belief” in God are we confessing? We are not just saying that we are a Theist rather than an atheist. We are confessing a personal faith in the Christian God, who consists of the Persons of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The kind of faith you are confessing is a renewal of your personal commitment to the God you are confess. When asked what people believe in, you can get a variety of answers. You can believe in George Washington. Or you can believe in democracy. Or you can believe in freedom. But each of these beliefs can only be intellectual beliefs. But the faith professed in the creed is the biblical ideas of faith. It is believing in someone with whom you have a personal commitment to and relationship with. The very first thing you are confessing is to your personal relationship with God.

“**THE FATHER**”

“I believe in God the Father”

In the Bible the prevailing problem is not atheism. It is paganism. Paganism is worshipping false gods. A false god can be made of metal or it can be a mental image of that which is not God. So the first statement of the creed is to define the God in whom I believe. He is the Father.

Jesus taught us who God is. In Matthew 6:9
"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

Jesus taught us to call God our Father and to relate to God as our Father. In the Gospel of John alone God is referred to as Father about 120 times. This is the dominate title of God by Jesus. In the Old Testament God is referred to as Father mostly in terms of the covenant relationship He has with His people. “You shall be my people, I shall be your God.” Phrases like ‘my children, my sons and daughters’ had the idea of God as Father in the background. When Jesus came He taught us that God is a personal Father. He is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, the idea that God is Father is woven throughout the Bible is a way that to deny God as Father is to deny the true God.

It has been fashionable of late to be gender neutral about God and to hesitate to call Him by any masculine names. Between the ‘inclusive language’ people and the radical feminists the language of the church and of the Bible is being challenged and changed. But to refuse to call God Father is the first step back into paganism. It is trying to reimage God in our image, not as He is in reality and not as He revealed Himself through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. “I believe in God the Father.”

This leads us to the next word in our confession – ‘Almighty.’

ALMIGHTY

The second thing the Creed emphasizes about God, our heavenly Father, is that He is almighty. He is ‘God the Father Almighty.’

The first time God is called Almighty in the Bible is in Genesis 17:1 where God himself refers to himself as “God Almighty” when speaking to Abraham. The Hebrew is “El Shaddai” or “God who is the All Sufficient One.”

To say that God is almighty is to say that He is all powerful. He has all authority. He is all sovereign.

To say that God is sovereign is to say that He is in control, having complete control over his creation. His plans and purpose will be fulfilled.

“'I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted'” (Job 42:2).

"The LORD does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths" (Psalm 135:6).
Many think that if God is all-sovereign, then where is man’s free will? If God is all-sovereign, then where is the value of man’s effort. Well without God being all-powerful, all-sovereign, all-mighty, then there would be no environment where man can exercise his free will. We would be at the mercy of fate. We would be at the mercy of the laws of physics. We would be enslaved in an impersonal universe of determinism. But God is all-powerful and He is Personal. He is the One who ensures that our choices are meaningful and our efforts are of value. He is the One who ultimately controls all things, even the laws of nature. Therefore we need to praise Him and worship Him as God the Father Almighty. Whereas many only see questions when confronted with God’s sovereignty, the Scriptures only respond in praise. The Psalmist proclaims:

(Psa 93:1-2 NKJV) The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; The LORD is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength. Surely the world is established, so that it cannot be moved. {2} Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting.

We are to remember that the Almighty God is our heavenly Father. When we confess that God is Almighty, we should also remember the comforting words of Jesus:

Matthew 10:29-31 NIV Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. (30) And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. (31) So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

When we are confess that God is Almighty we are confessing our faith in our heavenly Father who can move heaven and earth to meet our needs in Christ Jesus. We are confessing that we believe in a Sovereign God who keeps His promises because He is all powerful. We believe in a God who through His sovereignty creates an environment where our choices are meaningful. We are not at the mercy of impersonal forces of our environment.

MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.

Speaking of moving heaven and earth, the reason why we can believe this is because of what is next in our confession:

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
God is the Maker, the Creator. Genesis 1:1

**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**

Only God is eternal, everything else has been created by Him. This means that God is not dependent upon anything outside of His will and being. This means that all things are accountable to their Maker. We are under God’s authority and accountable to Him because it He who has made us.

(Psa 100:3 NKJV)  **Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.**

When we confess in the creed “I believe in God...maker of heaven and earth” we are confessing that nothing is outside the created universe that God has not made and is separated from His will. If there are aliens on distant galaxies, they have been created by God, who is our heavenly Father! They are under his authority and accountable to him.

Now this confession that God is the Maker of heaven and earth goes against much of our contemporary thinking. People since the days of Charles Darwin have tried to come up with ways to explain the presence of this universe without giving God the credit or the glory. Stephen Hawking, the world-class English theoretical physicist and cosmologist, has concluded, “The Big Bang was the result of the inevitable laws of physics and did not need God to spark the creation of the Universe.”

When we confess the first article of the Creed we are confessing that when we look at the stars, the trees, the beautiful flowers and mountains, the animals and various species under heaven we see that they gives glory to God as their Creator and so should we!

(Psa 19:1 NKJV)  **The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.**

They are the work of God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

**CONCLUSION:**

So, this first statement of the Apostles Creed is an important part of our confession. We confess that we believe in “God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.” This is the Biblical view of God and to revise it or deny it is to say that you believe in man as the ‘maker of reality about heaven and earth.’ All
man-centered religion will ultimately end up in paganism and this is why believing and reciting the Apostles Creed is an important antidote against paganism.

Since we serve a God worthy of our worship, our devotion and our love, we should have a prayer on our lips like the one St. Augustine had when we prayed:

> O God, the light of every heart that sees Thee, the Life of every soul that loves Thee, the strength of every mind that seeks Thee, the house of my soul is too narrow for Thee, enlarge it, it is ruinous, repair it; it has that within which must offend Thee, cleanse it. Be Thou alone the joy of my heart. Amen.

Let’s stand and confess our faith using the words of the Apostle’s Creed!

**THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

I believe in God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ,  
His only Son, our Lord;  
Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,  
from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

Amen.