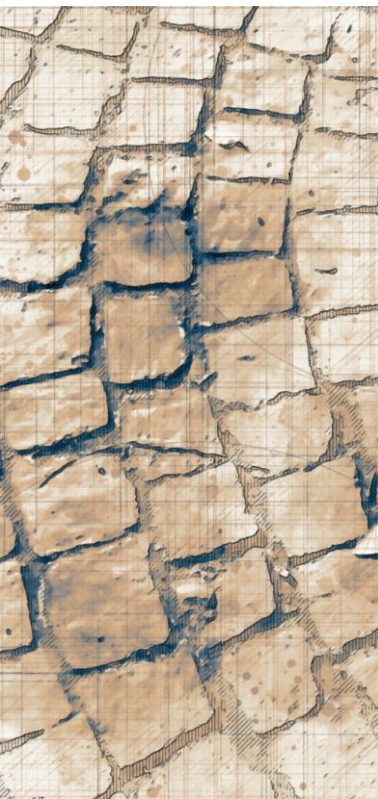


03

Foundation of Orthodox Beliefs

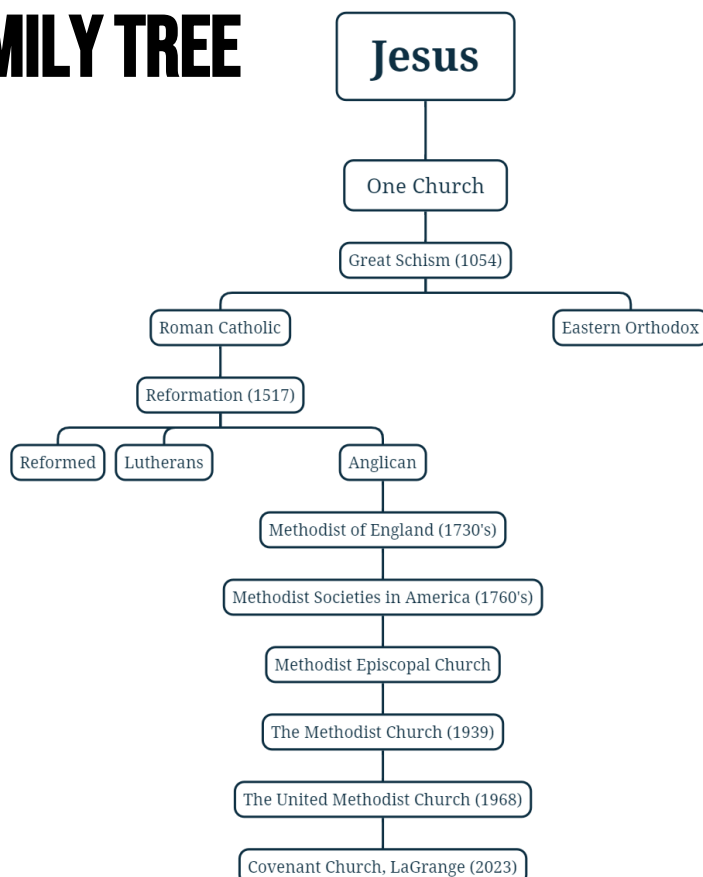
ORTHODOXY



Orthodox Christian beliefs are foundational teachings shared by most Christian traditions, particularly within historical Christianity. These beliefs are based on key elements like:

- 1. Historical Creeds:** Such as the Apostles' Creed and Nicene Creed, which outline core Christian doctrines, including the Trinity, the divinity of Christ, and the resurrection.
- 2. Ecumenical Councils:** The early councils of the Church, like the Councils of Nicaea and Chalcedon, helped define important theological points and settled disputes over doctrines.
- 3. Historical Teachings:** The Church has historically passed down essential teachings through its leaders and theologians, contributing to a unified understanding of core Christian beliefs across denominations.

METHODIST FAMILY TREE



THE TRINITY

Bible References
Matthew 28:19
2 Corinthians 13:13
John 14:16-17
1 Peter 1:2
Ephesians 4:4-6



QUALITIES:



Significance of the Trinity

- Helps us understand the nature of salvation
- Helps us deepen our relationship with God
- Is the Basis for Christian community and relationships

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through Him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
He came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
He suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.
We confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and we look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

EXERCISE

Read through the Nicene Creed several times and identify key attributes of each member of the Trinity, the early church. Record what you discover below.





THE TRINITY IN PRAYER

This prayer exercise is designed to help you move from simply reading the words of the Creed to deeply engaging with its truths through personal prayer. As you reflect on each section, you are invited to offer prayers of thanksgiving, petition, and worship to each member of the Trinity. This will not only enrich your understanding of the Creed but also deepen your relationship with God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Take your time with each reflection and prayer prompt. Let this be a moment of stillness and connection, allowing the truths of the Creed to shape your heart and draw you into a deeper awareness of God's presence in your life.

01 Reflect on God the Father

Prayer Prompt:

Spend a moment in awe of God as the Creator of everything seen and unseen. Reflect on His power and wisdom in making the universe, and thank Him for His role as the loving Father who watches over you.

02 Reflect on Jesus Christ

Prayer Prompt:

Reflect on the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Consider His incarnation, His sacrifice on the cross, and His promise to return in glory. Offer thanks for His love and redemption, and commit to living in the hope of His return.

03 Reflect on the Holy Spirit

Prayer Prompt:

Consider the work of the Holy Spirit in your life—the One who gives life, empowers, and guides you. Thank Him for His presence and seek His wisdom and strength in your daily walk with God.

Amen.