



THE NICENE CREED

c. 325 AD

CHECK-IN & CHECK-UP

// CHECK-IN

:: Everyone take a minute or two to share how they've been since the last time you met.

// CHECK-UP

:: Do a spiritual check-up. *How's your bible-reading, prayer, church attendance? In what ways do you feel encouraged/discouraged? Where do you see evidence of the Spirit's work in your own life?*

• SEMESTER II • SESSION X • THE SPIRIT SENT

“...who proceeds from the Father and the Son.”

In this section of the Nicene Creed, we consider the most controversial phrase: “who proceeds from the Father *and the Son*.” The clause “and the son” is known as the *filioque*. The word *filioque* is a Latin term which means “and the son.”

The term was added to the Nicene Creed to address challenges to the *divinity of Jesus*. To defend the deity of the eternal Son of God, the *filioque* was included to prove that the Spirit eternally proceeds from both God the Father and God the Son, thus demonstrating Jesus is truly God. It sparked controversy, because it was not agreed upon by both Western and Eastern churches. This led to the Great Schism of 1054.

In our study of ‘The Spirit Sent,’ we categorized the works the Spirit is sent to accomplish as *creation, redemption, transformation* and *consummation*. Fully God Himself, the Spirit is involved in the creation of the world (Gen. 1:1-2, 2:7), the rebirth and redemption of fallen sinners (Jn. 3:5-8), transforming redeemed sinners into the image of Christ (Gal. 5:16-24), and the consummation of the plan of redemption (Rom. 8:18-23).

The study of the procession of the Holy Spirit (i.e., “who proceeds....”) gives believers *joy* in the Triune God, *confidence* in the work God has and will accomplish in us, *motivation* to pursue communion with Him, and *enthusiasm* to share the gospel with others.

• SEMESTER II • SESSION X •
THE SPIRIT SENT

“...who proceeds from the Father and the Son.”

READ TOGETHER

Matthew 10:20; Philippians 1:19; Romans 8:9, 11

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

Examine each verse and ask: “Who is the Spirit said to be the Spirit of?”

The filioque was added to demonstrate and defend the divinity of Jesus. How does a recognition of the Spirit as “the Spirit of Christ” prove Jesus is God?

READ TOGETHER:

John 14:15-30, 15:26-27, 16:4-15

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What is the context of this section of John's gospel (ch. 14-16)? Under what circumstances is Jesus giving the promise of the Holy Spirit?

John 14:17 states that the Spirit dwelt with the disciples, but not within them. What does this mean? What is the difference in the work of the Holy Spirit between the Old and New Testaments?

According to John 15:26 and 16:5-16, what are the works the Spirit is sent to do? What do these mean?

// GETTING TO CHRIST

Reconsider John 14:18, 26-27. Why does Jesus send the Holy Spirit? What does this teach you about Jesus' nature and the way He relates to you?

According to John 14:25-26 and 16:12-15, the Spirit will remind and provide further revelation of Jesus' words. How do you and I experience the fulfillment of this promise today?

// GETTING TO ME

Throughout chapters 14-16, Jesus stated that it is better for the Holy Spirit to be sent to indwell believers than it is for Jesus to physically remain with them (cf. 14:12-14, 16:6-7). As one author wrote, why is the Spirit inside you better than Jesus beside you?

// GETTING TO OTHERS

The work of the Spirit is to convict the world of sin, glorify Jesus the Son of God, and empower believers to witness to Him. What does this teach us about our mission as a church?

How can we be more attentive and discerning of the Spirit's activity in the lives of non-believers around us?

EVANGELISM & PRAYER

HAVE EACH PERSON SHARE A PRAYER REQUEST
AND CLOSE BY PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

