

## We Believe (ܘܢܝܢܘܢܐ) – The Nicene Creed

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We are told that patriarchs are the representatives of God on earth. Therefore, they must be the first to execute the teachings of Heavenly Father in order to be excellent role model for their flocks.

During the daily worship service in the apostolic churches, the congregation cite the Nicene Creed “We Believe” (*m-haym-neenan*). It is the doctrine of faith for most churches.<sup>1</sup> In the apostolic churches, clergymen and parishioners recite the Nicene Creed which states:

*“We believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, the First-born of all creatures, who was begotten of his Father before all worlds and not made, true God of true God, of one nature with his Father, by whom the worlds were fashioned and everything was made, who for us men and for our salvation descended from heaven and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and became man; he was conceived and born of the Virgin Mary; he suffered and was crucified in the days of Pontius Pilate, and was buried and rose on the third day, as it is written, and ascended to heaven and sat down at the right hand of his Father; and he is going to come in order to judge the dead and the living; and in one Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, the life-giving Spirit; **and in one holy, apostolic, and catholic church**; and we confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection of our bodies, and life forever and ever. Amen”<sup>2</sup>*

Prayers and confessions must not be only words we utter. A true Christian must fully, wholeheartedly and genuinely believe and practice his ecumenical creeds, the Christian’ statement of faith. Notices to consider:

First, the patriarchs (and all clergy) of the apostolic churches of the Assyrian people confess daily their belief in the Nicene Creed, i.e., **one holy, apostolic, and catholic [which means universal] church**, but, in reality, they do not do what is necessary to make that happen. The leaders of the Assyrian Church of the East (ACOE) and the Ancient Church of the East have failed recently in their attempt to reunite the two churches that have similar language, traditions, liturgy, dogma, faith, etc. The two churches are different only regarding the church calendar and leadership. They split less than 60 years ago. It is said, where there's a will there's a way. The leaders of the two churches opted to remain divided while the Assyrians were expecting a unity road-map to be announced. On the other hand, there has been progress between the ACOE and the Catholic Church in signing the various phases in accordance to the 1994 Common Christological Declaration, but the full communion and the church supremacy will complicate matters.

Second, patriarchs and all the clergy must not interfere in political matters. It is not the responsibility of patriarchs to shepherd meetings for politicians and nationalists. It is not their responsibility to give politicians advice regarding how to unite or how to use compromises to reach agreements, when they themselves do not do those things.

The patriarchs do not follow the teachings of the Church, which orders them to unite under **one holy, apostolic, and catholic church**. It is hypocritical for patriarchs to ask people to unite and cooperate while they do not. It is hypocritical for the church leaders to read the Nicene Creed daily but not execute it.

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1 Presbyterian congregations, for example, reaffirm their faith using all or part of one of the confessions — often the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed, or a Brief Statement of Faith.

2 <https://acoecalifornia.org/files/Essential-Prayers-in-English-Language.pdf>