



“How will you make it salty again?”

A. Intro: *My Salty Childhood & The History of Salt*

B. Sermon in a Sentence: *Jesus is the salt of our salvation.*

C. Context of Today's Question

Following his teaching about the kind of humble faith and service found among believers, Jesus now turns to an explanation of who among us are actually allies and enemies, closing with a warning question for those who do not recognize him as Lord.

D. Mark 9:37-50 (ESV)

³⁷ “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.” ³⁸ John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” ³⁹ But Jesus said, “Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰ For the one who is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.

LIFE APPLICATION:

- **The Name of Jesus is not an incantation, but a declaration of ownership. Examine the works of others through this lens.**
- **Learn to distinguish the essentials of Christian doctrine.**

⁴² “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ ‘where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’ ⁴⁹ For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰ Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, **how will you make it salty again?** Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

LIFE APPLICATION:

- **Invite Jesus to perform radical spiritual surgery before we reach the point of no return.**
- **Hell is a real, eternal habitat of pain and anguish apart from God.**
- **The good “salt” of God has effects now and later, made possible by the grace of Jesus.**

E. Small Group or Individual Study Questions

1. What food spices were important in your history? Why?
2. Why is childlike faith so important to Jesus?
3. What assurance do you have that you are walking through life in the Name of Jesus?
4. Read the next page about the Nicene Creed. Why do these basic beliefs form the core of the faith to which all Christians hold?
5. What activity leads you into temptation and sin? What is its root?
6. Spend a sabbath rest day in worship, prayer, and God's Word with Jesus. Journal your discoveries.

Source: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Nicene-creed.html>

Question: "What is the Nicene Creed?"

Answer: Other than the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed is likely the most universally accepted and recognized statements of the Christian faith. The Nicene Creed was first adopted in A.D. 325 at the Council of Nicea. The Roman Emperor Constantine had convened the Council of Nicea in an attempt to unify the Christian church with one doctrine, especially on the issues of the Trinity and the deity and humanity of Jesus Christ. The Nicene Creed reads as follows:

MODERN WORDING:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again 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]. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

There have been some revisions to the Nicene Creed, including one with the "Filioque Clause." The Council of Constantinople in AD 381 expanded the language of the creed to clarify the orthodox concept of the Trinity. This is the version (shown above) today most commonly referred to as the "Nicene Creed."

Overall, the Nicene Creed is a good summary of Christian doctrine. There are two primary issues, however. The first regards the phrase "catholic and apostolic church"—this does not refer to the Roman Catholic Church as we know it today. The word "catholic" means "universal." (The true "catholic" church is all those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. Please see our article on the universal church.) Also, "apostolic" means "built on the teaching of the apostles" and is not a statement of support for apostolic succession. Second, "baptism for the remission of sins" is a much misunderstood concept.