

# Pastor Mike's Bookshelf

KEVIN DEYOUNG

## The Nicene Creed



What You Need to Know about the  
Most Important Creed Ever Written

FOUNDATIONAL  
TOOLS FOR  
OUR FAITH

## The Nicene Creed

By Kevin DeYoung

As I've pointed out in worship, this year marks the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, which produced the first versions of the Nicene Creed.

What is a council? A gathering of the leaders of the Christian Church for the purpose of clarifying beliefs and working out disagreements. The first "council" took place a few years after the resurrection of Jesus and is described in Acts 15. That first council focused on welcoming Gentiles as Christians, centered on the question of how "Jewish" they would have to be. The gathering in Nicaea focused on the deity of Jesus. Was He truly God, equal to the Father, or was He the Father's first creation, and therefore a lesser "god"? On the basis of Scripture, the council affirmed the full deity of Christ and publicized its conclusion by formulating a creed. We know this creed as the Nicene Creed. (Actually, the version we are familiar with was modified and expanded in the next council, which met in Constantinople in 381). My Bible class right now has been focused on the history of those early

centuries, and the biblical truths confessed in the creed.

In this little book, Kevin DeYoung has provided an overview of the history leading up to the council as well as what happened at the council. He then walks through the main theological points confessed in the creed. He not only explains what the council meant by the familiar wording, but why these truths are still relevant and important today.

If you are looking to better understand the familiar words of the creed, as well as how it came to be, I recommend this book. (Of course, I also recommend my class!) I have placed a copy of this book on the church library cart in the church entryway. Previous recommendations can be found here: <https://church.stjohnsnapa.org/resources/pastor-mikes-bookshelf>