

I believe in God the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth. In the first article of the Creed, we profess faith in one God, the true and living God who has created the world. Independently of faith, we know by the light of reason that there is a God, an only God, who has made the heaven and the earth. Indeed, in presence of the spectacle which the universe presents to our view, reason says to everyone, be they ever so little attentive, that if a house presupposes an architect, a watch a watchmaker, with far greater force does the order and architecture of the universe proclaim a God who has made it. What we thus know from reason faith distinctly teaches us by affirming the existence of an all-powerful God, the Creator of heaven and earth.

Now, what is God? In harmony with reason, faith answers: God is the Creator, the Master, and the Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth, the source of our salvation and our sovereign good.

1. God is the Creator, because He has drawn out of nothing the heaven and the earth and has given to all beings existence and life.
2. God is the Master, (i) because the universe belongs to Him as does their work to the mechanic; (2) because it is His privilege to command His creatures as does a king his subjects, and all are held to obey Him.
3. God is the Supreme Ruler, (i) because all lawful superiors have their authority from Him; (2) because He governs the world by His laws, to which all are bound to submit themselves; (3) because He will reward those who heed His laws and will punish those who disregard them.
4. God is the source of our salvation, because He has created us to be saved for eternal beatitude and offers us the assistance which we need to realize it. This assistance is called grace, which flows from the heart of God, in answer to our prayer, as water from an inexhaustible fountain.
5. God is our sovereign good; that is to say, that perfect good which is the object of all the aspirations of our heart. We have an unremitting desire, a thirst for happiness, which we always seek to satisfy. But all the riches of this world are inadequate. God alone, for whom our heart is made, can satiate that thirst and fully gratify our desires. This is the beatitude or perfect happiness of which God gives a foretaste in this life to those who love Him, and in all its plenitude in the world to come. Love God, then, with all your heart, serve Him faithfully, that you may finally realize that inexpressible happiness for which He has created you.