The Creed as Key

In Greek the word for key is *symbol*, which came to be used by Christians for the Creed. *Creed* comes from the Latin, *credo*, which means *I believe*.

A creed is like a key:
1. it has a shape and must keep its shape to work
2. it has a distinctive shape (it fits the lock)
3. its complex shape has a simple function (it opens the door)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Apostles’ Creed</th>
<th>The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed</th>
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<td>Symbolum Apostolorum (c. 215 CE)</td>
<td>Symbolum Niceanorum-Constantinopolitorum (381 CE)</td>
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1. I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

2. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

3. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

4. We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

5. 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

6. 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 to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

7. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

8. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

9. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

10. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

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