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The Bible and the Nicene Creed

Consider this: virtually every Protestant denomination includes in its statement of beliefs a statement on the nature of the Bible. Most of these statements speak very clearly about the nature of the inspiration of the Bible. Many churches make their statement on the Bible the very first statement in their beliefs - before their statement on the Trinity or the person of Christ.

Compare that with the Nicene Creed. (Here's a link to the text of the Creed: <http://www.gci.org/aboutus/beliefs>.) The Nicene Creed contains no doctrinal statement on the Bible. Not a word about its inspired status or how and to what degree it is authoritative.

Does that mean that early Christians didn't value the Bible? Of course not. The writings of the Church Fathers, including those present at Nicea, are filled to overflowing with quotes from the Bible.

Here's what I think it means: That the early Church worshiped the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, not a book. They looked to Jesus as the Word of God and the revelation of the Triune Life. They relied on the Holy Spirit to guide them into all truth. The Bible was part of their lives, but the Trinity was the center of their lives. They looked to Jesus in order to make sense of the Bible, they didn't look at the Bible to make sense of Jesus. Perhaps we could all learn something from their perspective.

~ Jonathan Stepp