

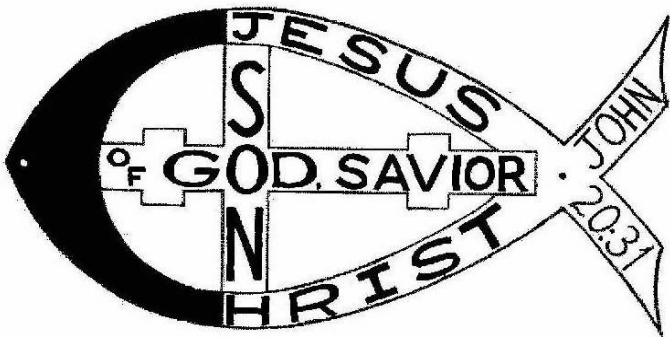
The sign of the fish is probably the most ancient symbol of the Christian confession of faith. In Greek, the word **ΙΧΘΥΣ** (fish) is an acrostic, in which each Greek letter stands for a word:

"Jesus Christ – God's Son, Savior"

...as the Apostle John wrote: "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life (Salvation) in His name" – John 20:31.

In this way, when persecuted Christians in the first century met and drew a fish in the sand, they immediately recognized one another.

Jesus Christ commanded His disciples to bear their cross, follow Him and confess Him: "Then He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels.'" – Luke 9: 23-26



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But faith must always be combined with justice and love: "In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. ...And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us the commandment" – 1 John 3:10 and 23.

With the passage of time, the "fish" symbol of faith was added to, and by the end of the fourth century the Councils of Nicea (A.D. 325) and Constantinople (A.D. 381) composed the following...

Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed

I believe in One God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, Begotten of the Father before all worlds; Light of Light, Very God of Very God; Begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried; And the third day He arose again, according to the Scriptures; And ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge the quick and the dead, Whose Kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets;

And I believe in one holy, catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church – 412-824-0246 – 211 Cable Ave. – E. Pittsburgh PA
Sat. Vespers 5:00 p.m. (call) – Sun. Liturgy 9:00 a.m., fellowship meal follows.
www.sjbeastpitt.org – rkitsko@gmail.com

See also www.Discover-Original-Christianity.info

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