

The Baptist Faith & Message, 2000

II. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

A. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

[Genesis 1:1](#); [2:7](#); [Exodus 3:14](#); [6:2-3](#); [15:11ff.](#); [20:1ff.](#); [Leviticus 22:2](#); [Deuteronomy 6:4](#); [32:6](#); [1 Chronicles 29:10](#); [Psalm 19:1-3](#); [Isaiah 43:3,15](#); [64:8](#); [Jeremiah 10:10](#); [17:13](#); [Matthew 6:9ff.](#); [7:11](#); [23:9](#); [28:19](#); [Mark 1:9-11](#); [John 4:24](#); [5:26](#); [14:6-13](#); [17:1-8](#); [Acts 1:7](#); [Romans 8:14-15](#); [1 Corinthians 8:6](#); [Galatians 4:6](#); [Ephesians 4:6](#); [Colossians 1:15](#); [1 Timothy 1:17](#); [Hebrews 11:6](#); [12:9](#); [1 Peter 1:17](#); [1 John 5:7](#).

Key Text:

- Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."
- Exodus 3:14: "And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"
- Exodus 20:1-3: "And God spoke all these words, saying: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me."
- Deuteronomy 6:4: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!"
- Deuteronomy 32:6: "Do you thus deal with the Lord, O foolish and unwise people? Is He not
- your Father, who bought you? Has He not made you and established you?"
- 1 Chronicles 29:10: "Therefore David blessed the Lord before all the assembly; and David said: "Blessed are You, Lord God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever.""
- Isaiah 43:3: "For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior..."
- Isaiah 64:8: "But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all
- we are the work of Your hand."
- Matthew 6:9-10: "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."
- Matthew 28:19: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

- Romans 8:14-15: "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, Abba, Father."
- Galatians 4:4-7: "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."
- Ephesians 4:4-6: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

Major Observations of God the Father:

He is Powerful (I AM)

- God is omniscient.
- God is omnipresent. Psalm 46:1
- God is omnipotent. Psalm 24:8, 1 Chron. 29:11-12

He is Personal (Father)

- God is Father. He is personal. He is not "mother" nor an "it." (1 John 3:1)
 - God's fatherhood is eternal. He is eternally the Father of Jesus Christ, and through Jesus He is our Father. Through Jesus we receive the Father's love and are called "children of God."
 - God calls us His children and gives us the assurance that as His children we are heirs and co-heirs with Christ ([Romans 8:17](#)).
- God is fatherly toward all but only Father to those who become His children by adoption through faith in Jesus Christ. (Matt 5:43-48; Acts 14:15-17; Rom 2:1-4)
 - John 1:12 also tells us that God gives the right to become children of God to all who in faith have received Christ as Lord and Savior.
 - Islam gives Allah 99 names, but not one of the names is Father. Jesus, however, called God Father and taught His disciples (meaning "followers") to pray to God as Father ([Matthew 6:9](#)).

He is Providential (Lord)

- God is Lord of the Universe. All things come under His authority. (Psalm 103:19)
- God is Lord of History. Time had a beginning, as did the universe. History has purpose
- and a telos or conclusion. (Daniel 2:21)

Perfect (Master)

- God is omni-benevolent and always loving. (1 John 3:1)
- God is omni-wise. (Job 9:4, Dan. 2:20, Rom. 16:25, 27)
- God is omni-faithful. (Lam. 3:22-23)
- God is perfectly forgiving & saving. (1 John 1:9, Zeph. 3:17)

Provider & Protector (Shepherd)

- God is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love (Psalm 103:8).
- God lovingkindness and mercies are new every morning. (Psalm 23)

A Summary of Theological Truths

At the heart and center of Christian faith and practice is the great and glorious triune God of Scripture. Unfortunately, as David Wells has reminded us in his important work, *No Place for Truth*, what a secular and postmodern age often does to “God” is not to eliminate him, but rather to relocate him from the center of our lives to that which is periphery and inconsequential.

Unfortunately, this effect of living in a secular age is often true of the church as well.

However, this is something the God of the Bible will not allow. For when we turn to Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, we are presented with “the only one living and true God,” our Creator, our Lord, and our Father.

It is an awesome privilege to confess and affirm Article 2a of the BF&M – “God the Father.” For as the statement reminds us, the God of Scripture is a Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Because of God’s gracious work of redemption of Christ, we may now “become children of God” and have the supreme joy of calling God our Father.

We who were ruined by the Fall and who rightly stood under God’s just condemnation are now, by grace, “through faith in Jesus Christ,” able to address God as Father.

First John 3:1 wonderfully reminds us, “How great is the love the Father has lavished us, that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are.”

But it must be quickly added that this great privilege of knowing God as our Father is only found “through faith in Jesus Christ.”

The BF&M correctly notes that God, as providential Lord, is “fatherly in his attitude toward all men” . In God’s sovereign care over His creation, thru His work of providence, he sustains and keeps the world that he has made, sending both rain and sunshine alike upon believer and unbeliever.