

Trinity: God the Father

There is one, and only one, true God whose eternal being has been revealed to us as a tri-unity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—three distinct, yet inseparable, Persons possessing one and the same divine nature.

What can you say about the Father?

In the Baptist Faith & Message 2000, the confession of beliefs held by Southern Baptists, there are 171 words about God the Son, 129 words about God the Holy Spirit, and only 65 words about God the Father. Other confessions are similar in this way.

Some would say, “This is too complicated; just give me Jesus!” But it was Jesus himself who said, “If you knew me, you would know my Father also” (John 8:19). So, yes, it is important.

Some have struggled with God the Father because their perspectives have been damaged by bad fathers on earth. We should define earthly fatherhood by God the Father, not the other way around. God the Father is “that Father from Whom all fatherhood takes its title and derives its name” (Ephesians 3:14-15, Amplified).

“God the Father” can be differentiated from the term, “The Fatherhood of God,” as the latter term is used as a word picture. The Scriptures do sometimes use this figure of speech (Acts 17:28; Ex. 4:22; Ps. 68:5; Is. 74:8). However, many who use this term are not intending to describe a trinitarian God at all.

God the Father:

The Father is truly and eternally God. He is the Person of the Trinity who initiates divine activity in creation and redemption — the source, the one who plans, the one who sends. He is eternally the “God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Believers have experienced the Father as God above us.

How God is Father:

Eternally, He is “the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ” (multiple verses).

The Mission of God the Father:

The Father is the source, the one who plans, initiates, and sends.

The Father as Source:

James 1:17; Matthew 7:11; 2 Cor. 1:3

The Father as Planner:

Acts 2:23; 17:30-31; Eph. 2:10; Mark 10:40

The Father Who Sends:

1 John 4:10; John 14:26

“The gospel... starts not with the cross of Jesus or with the gift of the Spirit, but with the Father who so loved the world...” — Tom Smail (Forgotten Father)

The Distant Father:

Ex. 33:20; John 6:46; 1 Tim. 1:17; 1 Jn. 4:12; 1 Tim. 6:16; Matt. 11:27

Access to the Father is a Big Deal:

John 14:6; Eph. 2:18

“Why dost thou stand afar off, and tremble like a slave?” — Spurgeon

A Great Passage to Study

Ephesians 1:3-14 speaks about all three Persons of the Trinity, but most especially about the Father. In the ESV the words, “He,” “Him,” or “Himself” are used 19 times. Read this passage with attention to which Person of the Trinity is meant by each occurrence of “he.”

