

D1: GOD THE FATHER (Answer Key at the End)

So many great hymns have been written about Him. “*How deep the Father’s love for us, how vast beyond all measure...*” Or, “*Great Father of glory, great Father of light...*” (Immortal Invisible). Then, “*Great is Thy faithfulness, Oh God my Father*” (Great is Thy Faithfulness).

He is the ineffable One, “***the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see.***” He is the First Person of the Triune Godhead, the Creator of all things (Acts 17:24-29; Rev. 4:11; 10:6). We may access Him only through Jesus Christ (John 14:6; Eph. 3:12). Lovingly He has adopted us as His children and “***blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms***” (Eph. 1:3).

He is God the Father. And, now because of Jesus He is God *our* Father, “***I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.***” (John 20:17b).

The Bible reveals God to be quite unique from what much of formal religions and informal spiritual ideas would say. Particularly, and quite unexpectedly, Scripture teaches that God is a Triune God. This means that He is one God, but, three distinct divine Persons. It is almost always misunderstood to mean three different gods, but, that’s not it. It’s one God, three divine Persons. Those Persons are the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Many ridicule this idea as irrational, which almost makes the point for us that no human would invent this teaching. It had to be revealed. This study will examine more closely the uniqueness of the Father – who is the First Person of the Trinity.

LESSON ONE: GOD THE FATHER IS GOD

God the Father’s deity is clearly established by many biblical evidences.

First, He is _____ God. While at times He is referred to as our Heavenly Father, or Righteous Father, many times He is called “God our Father”. “***Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...***” (Eph. 1:3; 1 Pet. 1:3) and “***Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father...***” (Php 1:2; 1 Tim. 1:2)

Second, He is _____, “***Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.***” (John 4:23; see also Revelation 4:10-11)

Third, He is the _____ “***You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things and by your will they were created and have their being.***” (Rev. 4:11; see also Acts 17:24-29).

Fourth, He has _____ attributes. He is eternal, transcendent, omnipotent and omniscient and omnipresent. As God, He and He alone is able to forgive sins. No creature possesses these attributes but the Father is credited with these throughout Scripture.

LESSON TWO: GOD THE FATHER IS THE 1ST PERSON OF THE TRINITY

You may hear a Bible teacher or see a theology book say that God the Father is the First _____ of the Trinity. What does that mean?

It is not because He _____ first. All three are “co-eternal”, which means all three have always existed together in eternity and are timeless, uncreated Persons.

It also does not mean that the Father is “more” _____ than the Son and the Spirit are. Nor does it mean that He is qualitatively greater than them.

Instead, we see from studying the Bible that there is a certain _____ within the Trinity – a rank if you will. In this order the Father has a certain first place in relation to the Son (John 14:28) and the Spirit. Again, this is not based on any of them being more or less “God” than the Others. Each Person in the Trinity has a differen _____ and all Three work in perfect cooperation with Each Other. The following passages and points demonstrate the Father’s first place within the Trinity:

God the Father _____ Jesus. Always the greater dispatches the servant in Scripture.

God the Father gives Jesus _____. **“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me”** (Matthew 28:18)

God the Father sends the _____. **“And I will ask the Father and He will send another Counselor, the Spirit of Truth”** (John 14:16-17; c.f. Luke 11:13)

Jesus Christ _____ the Father. **“I do exactly as my Father commands me.”** (John 14:31)

Jesus will hand over the _____ to the Father. **“Then the end will come, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father after He has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.”** (1 Corinthians 15:24-25)

Jesus makes _____ to the Father available. **“I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”** (John 14:6; see also Eph. 3:12).

Jesus _____ for us with the Father, as Hebrews 7:25 says, **“Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them.”**

LESSON THREE: GOD THE FATHER AND JESUS CHRIST

Agur said in Proverbs 30:4, **“Who has gone up to heaven and come down? Who has gathered up the wind in the hollow of His hands? Who has wrapped up the waters in His cloak? Who has established all the ends of the earth?”** Clearly Agur is speaking of God, but, his next question is powerful: **“What is His name and the name of His _____? Tell me if you know!”** This sovereign God of the world has a Son!

The Old Testament indicates not only a plurality of Divine Persons (see “God” study), but, also that one of those Persons is a Father to the other. Isaiah 9:6 stated, “**For unto us a son is given, unto us a child is born**” and goes on to describe this child as having divine traits. God said to His Son in Psalm 2:7, “**You are my Son, today I have become your Father...**” In a celestial vision Daniel 7:13-14 sees God approached by another mysterious person, “**In my vision at night I looked and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into His presence. He was given authority, glory, and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him...**” Note that person approaching God was to be _____ something no mere man or angel is to receive (Rev. 22:8-9). Collecting this sampling of passages clearly shows two Divine Persons and that one is a Father and one is His Divine Son.

As the _____ opens we see this Father/Son relationship revealed in even greater ways. Coming up out of the waters of baptism the sky thundered with the Father’s voice in affirmation of Jesus: “**This is my Son, whom I love; with whom I am well pleased.**” Jesus said “**The Father is in me and I am in the Father...I and the Father are one...whoever has seen me has seen the Father** (John 10:38, 30; 14:10). He claimed to be the only one who _____ the Father (Matthew 11:27) and the only one who _____ the Father: “**No one has ever seen God, but God the one and only, who is at the Father’s side has made him known**” (John 1:18; c.f. Hebrews 1:1-3).

Jesus never claimed to be acting _____. The Father sent Jesus (John 3:17), placed His seal of _____ on Him (John 6:27) commanded Him what to _____, and performed _____ through Jesus (John 14:9-11; Acts 2:22-23). Jesus said “**These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me...I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.**” (John 14:24, 31)

In eternity past the Father and His Son shared in the divine _____. Jesus prayed, “**And now Father glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.**” (John 17:5)

Furthermore, after His Son suffered an excruciating death on the cross and was in the grave for 3 days, the Father raised Him from the dead (Acts 2:24, 27, 32). Forty days after raising Him to life the Father then exalted Jesus from earth to glory at His _____ in heaven (Acts 2:33; Php. 2:9)

The Father has established His Son as the only _____ between Himself and mankind (1 Tim. 2:4). The Father came to mankind through Jesus. Now through Jesus mankind must come to the Father (John 14:6; Eph. 2:22; 3:12). No one else may bridge sinful man to God the Father. Those who accept His Son will be accepted by the Father. Those who reject the Son will be rejected by the Father. Those who rejected Jesus will be judged by Jesus because He has authority from the Father to execute judgment (Acts 17; John 5).

LESSON FOUR: THE FATHER’S RELATIONSHIP WITH BELIEVERS

The relationship between a believer and God the Father is very special. Here are some things which describe our relationship with our Heavenly Father:

He has _____ us "***In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons...***" (Eph. 1:5)

He _____ us, "***No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me...***" (John 16:27; see also John 3:16 and Romans 5:8)

He has given us _____ "***My grace is sufficient for you...***" (2 Cor. 12:9) and "***From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another.***" (John 1:16)

He has given us every spiritual _____ "***Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ***" (Ephesians 1:3)

Every good and perfect _____ comes from Him (James 1:17)

We _____ to Him. "***This then is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven...'***" (Matthew 6:9) and "For this reason I kneel before the Father..." (Eph. 3:14). Also, read the article *OH GOD OUR FATHER* here: <https://efcspringlake.org/2016/03/08/oh-god-my-father/>

Together with Jesus He gives us the _____ "***But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name...***" (John 14:26; see also 15:26; Acts 2:33)

We _____ Him "***so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.***" (Romans 15:6)

He _____ us (Hebrews 12:5-11; see also Revelation 3:19)

We _____ Him "***and He has made us a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father...***" (Revelation 1:6; and 5:9)

ANSWER KEY:

D1: GOD THE FATHER: Triune

Lesson 1: called, worshipped, Creator, divine

Lesson 2: Person, existed, God, order, role, sent, authority, Holy Spirit, submits to, kingdom, access, advocates

Lesson 3: Son, worshiped, New Testament, knew, revealed, alone, approval, preach, miracles, glory, right hand, mediator

Lesson 4: adopted, loved, grace, blessing, gift, pray, Holy Spirit, glorify, disciplines, serve