

## GOD AS FATHER.

Imagine yourself among a group of Christians who have been given a biblical test with but three essay questions on it. Here are the questions, # 1 Put down everything you know about the Person and work of Jesus Christ, the second Person in the Trinity. (Probably most of the group could fill several pages of material about the Saviour in a reasonable amount of time. So far, so good!) # 2 Put down everything you know about the Person and work of the Holy Spirit, the third Person in the Trinity. (Now the pens do not move as rapidly or as confidently as before. There are long pauses between sentences. At the end of the given time period the average believer has probably written at least one-half page or more.) # 3 Put down everything you know about the Person and work of God the Father, first Person in the Trinity. (Oh, how silent the room now becomes! Finally, one statement is written: "He is the Father of Jesus Christ." But what can be added to this? It is my opinion that precious few in that group of Christians would be able to write even one-half dozen lines about the Father.) This all but universal ignorance about the Father is inexcusable, for he is mentioned by the Saviour alone well over 200 times during His earthly ministry. Our Lord taught the following about him:

- He is spirit (John 4:24).
- He is omnipotent (Matthew 19:26).
- He is omniscient (Matthew 10:29).
- He is holy (John 17:11).
- He is righteous (John 17:25).
- He is loving (John 3:16; 17:23).
- He is good (Matthew 6:26, 28-30; 10:29, 30).

W. Graham Scroggie writes: "But the outstanding truth which Christ taught about God is that He is *Father*. This term, applied to Him, occurs 189 times-in Matthew, 44; in Mark 4; in Luke, 17; and in John, 124." (*A Guide to the Gospels*, p. 560)

### I. He is the Father of \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. (Psalm 36:9; 19:1; 148:2-5; John 5:26; Acts 17:24, 25; Ephesians 4:17, 18; Colossians 1:16)
- B. He tends and cares for \_\_\_\_\_. (Psalm 104:14, 16; Matthew 6:28-30)
- C. He tends and cares for \_\_\_\_\_ nature. (Psalm 104:14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 27; Matthew 6:26, 10:29)
- D. He tends and cares for the \_\_\_\_\_. (Psalm 135:6, 7; 147:8, 16, 18; 148:8)
- E. He tends and cares for the \_\_\_\_\_. (Genesis 8:22; Acts 14:17)

### II. He Is the Father of Our Lord \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. During his earthly ministry Jesus spoke more about the Father than any other subject.
- B. The Father \_\_\_\_\_ His Son. (John 20:21; 6:57; 8:18; Galatians 4:4; 1 John 4:14; see also John 3:16; 8:16; 12:49)
- C. The Father commanded the angels to \_\_\_\_\_ His Son. (Hebrews 1:6; see also Luke 2:8-15)
- D. He honoured (and honours) His Son. (John 8:54)
- E. He bore \_\_\_\_\_ to His Son (John 8:18).
- F. He loved (and loves) His Son. (John 10:17)
- G. He \_\_\_\_\_ His Son. (John 12:27, 28; 17:1, 5)
- H. He \_\_\_\_\_ His Son. (John 8:28)
- I. He \_\_\_\_\_ His Son. (Luke 4:16-21; John 3:34)
- J. He \_\_\_\_\_ in His Son. (Isaiah 42:1; Matthew 3:17; 17:5; 2 Peter 1:17)

- K. He \_\_\_\_\_ to His Son. (John 11:41, 42; 12:27, 28; Matthew 26:52, 53)
- L. He \_\_\_\_\_ His Son. (John 18:11; Romans 8:32; 1 John 4:9, 10)
- M. He was totally satisfied by His Son. (John 8:29)
- N. He \_\_\_\_\_ His Son. (Galatians 1:1; Ephesians 1:20)
- O. He exalts His Son. (Philippians 2:9-11; Ephesians 1:21)
- P. He makes His Son head of the church. (Ephesians 1:22)
- Q. He commits \_\_\_\_\_ unto His Son. (John 3:35; 5:22, 27)
- R. Lewis Chafer writes the following concerning the relationship between the Father and the Son: "The relationship of the second person to the first person has from all eternity been that of a Son, and, like all else, related to the God-head, is not only eternal but is unchangeable He did not become a Son of the Father, as some say that He did, by His incarnation, or by His resurrection, nor is He a Son by mere title, nor is He temporarily assuming such a relationship that He may execute His part in the covenant of Redemption.

He was the only begotten of the Father from all eternity, having no other relation to time and creation than that He is the Creator of them. It is probable that the terms Father and Son, as applied to the first and second persons in the Godhead, are somewhat anthropomorphic (use of human terms to describe God) in character. That sublime and eternal relationship which existed between these two persons is best expressed to human understanding in the terms of Father and Son but wholly without implication that the two Persons, on the divine side, are not equal in every particular." (*Systematic Theology*, Vol. I; pp. 313-315)

### III. He Is the Father of All \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. While God is the Creator of all men (Genesis 1:27; Ecclesiastes 12:1; Acts 17:24-26), he is the *Father* only of believers. (1 John 3:1)
- B. He foreknew the believer (Romans 8:29; 1 Peter 1:2).
- C. He \_\_\_\_\_ the believer. (Ephesians 1:7)
- D. He predestinated (to decree, destine beforehand) the believer. (Romans 8:29; Ephesians 1:11; Acts 13:48)
- E. He \_\_\_\_\_ the believer (Romans 8:30).
- F. He elected (chose for a purpose) the believer. (Ephesians 1:4; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:1,2; 2:9)
- G. He gave all the elected believers to Christ. (John 6:37; John 6:44; 10:29; 13:3)
- H. He \_\_\_\_\_ the believer (Romans 8:33).
- I. He indwells the believer. (John 14:23)
- J. He \_\_\_\_\_ the believer with the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13; 4:30)
  - 1. It was, of course, the Father who sent the Holy Spirit at the request of Christ to the believer in the first place. **See John 14:16, 26; 15:26.**
- K. He keeps the believer. (John 10:29; 17:11)
- L. He conforms the believer to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (Romans 8:29).
- M. He honours the believer. (John 12:26)
- N. He \_\_\_\_\_ the believer. (Ephesians 1:3)
- O. He loves the believer. (2 Thessalonians 2:16; John 14:21)
- P. He comforts the believer. (2 Corinthians 1:3; Revelation 21:4; 2 Thessalonians 2:16)
- Q. He \_\_\_\_\_ the believer. (Jude 1; John 17:17)
- R. He bestows peace upon the believer. (Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:3; Galatians 1:3; Ephesians 1:2; Philippians 1:2; Colossians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:2; Titus 1:4.)
- S. He is \_\_\_\_\_ when the believer bears fruit. (John 15:8)
- T. He reveals \_\_\_\_\_ to the believer. (Matthew 16:17; Luke 10:21; Ephesians 1:17)
- U. He supplies the needs of believers. (Matthew 6:32, 33)

- V. He seeks the worship of believers. (John 4:23)
- W. He \_\_\_\_\_ believers. (Hebrews 12:5-10)
- X. He restores the believer. (Psalm 23:3; 51:12; Luke 15:21-24)
- Y. He will someday gather all believers in Christ (Ephesians 1:10)
- Z. He will someday reward all believers. (Matthew 6:1; Hebrews 11:6; 2 Timothy 4:8)
- AA. He will someday glorify all believers.
1. “Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified” (Romans 8:30).

Willmington’s Guide to the Bible; D. L. Willmington; pp. 636-640

## **Conclusion**

The study of the Doctrines of God can have no end. Indeed, this does not even scratch the surface of all that may be known about Him. We might say it is but the end of the introduction to the study of God. We shall, without doubt, continue to learn of Him through all eternity.