

Fatherhood of God

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1. Characteristics - God as Father

- **Definition of Father includes – Originator, Source, Inventor**
- **Q100 in Shorter Catechism – The preface to the Lord's Prayer** – states “Our Father which art in heaven” indicates God as a heavenly Father, emphasizing reverence, confidence, and the relationship of children to a loving parent.”
- **Powerful and almighty - God’s Power is known by all.** “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.” **Romans 1:20**
- **Wise** - “For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” **Proverbs 2:6**
- **Cares For His Children** - “Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?” **Matthew 6:26**
- **Faithful** - “Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.” **Deuteronomy 7:9**
- **Loving** – “So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.” **1 John 4:16**
- **Creator-** “For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.” **Colossians 1:16**
- “For you created my inmost being you knit me together in my mother’s womb.” **Psalms 139:13**
- **Sustainer** - “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand”. **Isaiah 41:10**
- **Filled with glory** - “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” **Psalms 19:1**
- **Worthy of all praise and Glory** - “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.” **Revelation 4:11**
- **Relational - God is involved in our life.** “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” **Jeremiah 29:11**
- **Relational – He calls us to be His children**
- **Gives good things** – “If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!” **Matthew 7:11**
- **Protector** – “The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” **Psalms 118:6**
- **Accessible** - "For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world" **Romans 1:19-20**

2. Actions - of God the Father in the Old Testament

- **Gave Covenants (Instruction and Guidance) to His children to live by** – Covenants of Works, Abrahamic, and Mosaic Covenants
- **Gave signs and wonders to His children - Examples:** Crossing the Red Sea, Isaac conceived by Abraham and Sarah, Widow's oil and meal supernaturally increased, Daniel delivered from lion's den, and preservation of Jonah in the belly of fish [Jonah 2:1-10](#)
- **Gave Prophets to show the way to God - Examples:** Moses – The lawgiver who pointed to God's Deliverance/Requirements, Isaiah – who proclaimed hope of redemption, Daniel – Demonstrating God's sovereignty Over nations
- **Demonstrated the need for a Mediator (prophet, priest, king)**
- **Access to God was limited and required sacrifice by a priest when you sinned. The high priest could go into Holy of Holies only once a year.**

3. Actions - Father God to Jesus (son)

In the Nicene Creed, Jesus is described as “begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made.”

- **Father and Son together at creation**
- **Father sent His Son to die for His children. Word made Flesh:** "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." [John 1:14](#)
- **The son Jesus fulfilled the requirements of the law and became our Savior.** Jesus said: “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” [Matthew 5:17](#)
- **The Father is always with the Son** – “And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.” [John 8:29](#)
- **Jesus's sacrifice gave us access to the father immediately. No need for sacrifices beyond what Christ had done on the cross.** “For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.” [Ephesians 2:18](#)
- **Father states: this is my beloved son** "and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” [Matthew 3:17](#)

4. Actions – The Father to His Children

The Father's evidence of his love for us (Our relationship with God)

- **Chooses and Adopts-** Through faith in Christ, believers are brought into the family of God and are given the status of sons and daughters
 - **Adoption (Shorter Cat Q&A 34):** What is adoption? A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges, of the sons of God.
 - **Westminster Confession of Faith Ch 12 – Adoption**

- **God chose us.** “Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.” **Ephesians 1:4**
- **Pursues and brings us into relationship** “And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.” **Romans 8:30**
- **Calls us Sons and Daughters** “And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.” **2 Corinthians 6:18**
- **Gives an Inheritance** “In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will” **Ephesians 1:11**
- **Gave us Jesus as an example of Obedience and Humility: Jesus exemplified perfect obedience to God's will,** "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me." **John 6:38**
- **Gives us Faith** "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." **Romans 1:17**
- **Gives us the Holy Spirit (who enables us)** - "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." **John 14:26**
- **Gives His Word (for instruction and to understand his will by reading his word)** “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” **Hebrews 4:12-5:11**
- **Gives us access to His throne (through the blood of Jesus)**
- **Hears and answers our Prayers** "And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.” **1 John 5:14-15**
- **Comforts us in all our affliction** **2 Corinthians 1:4**
- **Disciplines us** – as Proof of His Love. “For the Lord disciplines the one he loves and chastises every son whom he receives.” **Hebrews 12:6** “For they [earthly fathers] disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.” **Hebrews 12:10**
- **Gives us Wisdom** – “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.” **James 1:5**
- **Allows Evil and temptation but is not the author of evil** –“ I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the Lord, who does all these things.” **Isaiah 45:7** No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. **1 Corinthians 10:13**
- **Patient and Forgiving** - “Because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” **James 1:3-4**

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” [Galatians 5:22-23](#)

- **Kind, compassionate and forgiving** – “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” [Ephesians 4:32](#)
- **Relational** - We have a personal relationship through the work of Jesus Christ. God offers forgiveness without our having to sacrifice animals. As a father who knows us intimately, He knows what we need even before we ask for it. The Holy Spirit lives within us. Now with the Holy Spirit living in us, our bodies are the temple of God. Jesus’ sacrifice gives us access to the father. Holy spirit gives us the ability to obey.
- **Comforts Us** - "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." [Revelation 21:4](#)

5. Response – God’s children to the Father

Our response to being adopted is to reflect Him as his beloved children

- **Praise, worship, and adore Him**
 - The father seeks after those who worship him in spirit and in truth [John 4:24](#)
 - He inhabits the praises of His people
- **Thank Him** – Accept and appreciate His blessings
- **Obey Him – with a desire to please Him.** Be willing to do the Father’s will “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” [Mark 14:36](#)
- **Live in Fellowship** - Join with other believers in corporate worship and care for others. “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” [1 Peter 4:10](#)
- **Love Others- (This is how the World will know that we are his children)** Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. [1 John 4:8](#)
- **Act with justice, mercy and humility** - “He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” [Micah 6:8](#)
- **Pray (Talk to God) silently or out loud**
 - **Jesus encourages us to pray** -Gave us a model in the The Lord’s Prayer, which is the perfect prayer in many ways. Think about each part as I read it.
 - **Ask for your needs** - In John 14 after telling the disciples He is the way, the truth and the light, Jesus states: “Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.” [John 14:13-14](#)
 - **Jesus stayed close to the Father via prayer** - "But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray." [Luke 5:16](#)
- **Be led by the spirit:** “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.” [Romans 8:14](#)

- **Be dependent on the Father** “I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me” **John 5:30**
- **Serve only the Father** – “Then Jesus said to him, ‘Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.”’ **Matthew 4:10**
- **Know the purpose your Creator has made you.** “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” **Ephesians 2:10**
- **Know your inheritance-** “And if we are children, then we are heirs: heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery that returns you to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!' **Romans 8:15-17**
- **Have Faith -** “And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek Him.” **Hebrews 11:6**
- **Tell others about Him – Great commission**
- **A growing desire to Please Him.** “So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.” **2 Cor 5:9**
- **Imitate Jesus**
- **Remember and give thanks - for all the Father does for you daily**

6. Praise Him – He is Worthy

Psalm 103 (Of David)

- 103** Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
- ² Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
- ³ who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
- ⁴ who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- ⁵ who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- ⁶ The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all who are oppressed.
- ⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.
- ⁸ The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- ⁹ He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
- ¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
- ¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
- ¹³ As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.
- ¹⁴ For he knows our frame;^[a]
he remembers that we are dust.
- ¹⁵ As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
- ¹⁶ for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.
- ¹⁷ But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,
- ¹⁸ to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.
- ¹⁹ The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.
- ²⁰ Bless the LORD, O you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his word,
obeying the voice of his word!
- ²¹ Bless the LORD, all his hosts,
his ministers, who do his will!
- ²² Bless the LORD, all his works,
in all places of his dominion.
- Bless the LORD, O my soul!