

Truth Matters — About God The Father

Part 1-The Necessity Of God

1 Cor. 8:6 But to us *there is but* one **God, the Father**, of whom *are* all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom *are* all things...

Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and **God the Father**, who raised him from the dead;)

Galatians 1:3 Grace *be* to you and peace from **God the Father**, and *from* our Lord Jesus Christ,

Ephesians 6:23 Peace *be* to the brethren, and love with faith, from **God the Father** and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:11 And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of **God the Father**.

1 Thess. 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians *which is* in **God the Father** and *in* the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 1:2 To Timothy, *my* dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, *and* peace, from **God the Father** and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Titus 1:4 To Titus, *mine* own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, *and* peace, from **God the Father** and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

1 Peter 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of **God the Father**, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

2 Peter 1:17 For he received from **God the Father** honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

2 John 3 Grace be with you, mercy, *and* peace, from **God the Father**, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

Jude 1 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by **God the Father**, and preserved in Jesus Christ, *and* called:

Introduction: Several years ago a paper was published called the *Weekly World News*. On the front was a picture of Ross Perot and an alien. The headline read: "*Space Alien meets with Ross Perot!*" Here are just a few of the stories that were in that one particular copy:

- Man saws off arm to get handicapped parking sticker!
- Girl with four arms is volleyball champ!
- Hero duck rescues drowning boy, 3, from raging river.
- Georgia repairman paralyzed since the day his boss yelled at him in 1988.
- Farmer shoots 6 foot butterfly.
- Judges discover champion steer was pumped up with air.
- Ker-Pow! Church choirmaster clobbers granny for singing off-key.
- Disease forces boy to eat live animals.
- Doc cuts out own appendix in traffic jam.

My favorite was: "*Lost dog finds way home after watching Lassie movie.*" The article said: "A spunky little pooch named Lady trotted about 100 miles in 14 days to get back to the humans she loved after she was lost in a Minnesota forest. The happy owner, Sue Riesgraf, said of Lady's heroic journey back. 'she watched the *Lassie Come Home* movie, so she knew what to do.'"

The point is, "Some folks will believe anything but the TRUTH."

In our day we hear people saying that doctrine is not important. Someone says, "*Our doctrines are different, but we are just one big spiritual family.*" May I say with firmness, doctrine does matter! The truth is, our doctrine must be right if we are to be a member of the family. For example; If a person thinks that they can go to heaven because of how they lived, then they will be among that crowd Jesus spoke of that says, "*Lord, Lord*" but will not enter the "*kingdom of heaven*" (Matt. 7:21). The church is not be a gathering of people in which what they believe is of no importance or meaning. It is a place where people believe *Divine Truth* and know what and why they believe it.

I am also aware that it is impossible for *finite* man to understand the *infinite* God, much less explain Him. The Word of God teaches us that there is one God manifested in three persons; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, and that these three are **co-equal, co-eternal, and co-existent**. I will not attempt to go into any great details to satisfy the skeptics or argue with the atheist, but will simply try to give some help to those who are willing to believe what the Bible teaches about God.

Pharaoh said to Moses in Ex. 5:2, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go?" As you study Exodus you find that 10 plagues later Pharaoh knew very well who God was. One day those who deny the existence of God will meet Him face to face. Then they will know very well that God is real.

The problem with refusing to believe in God is, when God does reveal Himself, it is usually in judgment, and then it will be too late for those who have rejected Him to repent. In studying the Doctrine of God the Father, we will look at three thoughts: *the Necessity of God, the Nature of God, and the Names of God.*

I. THE NECESSITY OF GOD... Dealing With His Existence

I am always amazed how God chose to start the Bible. In Genesis 1:1 we read, "In the beginning God..." God makes no effort to explain who He is, where He came from, how long He has been around, what His credentials are, or any of the many other questions that have plagued the mind of man down through the ages. The only thought that I can give for this lack of information concerning the central figure of the Bible is, the whole operation of God and Christianity is *of faith*. God says something, you believe it and receive it, or you reject and refuse it. Here is a strong warning :

IF YOU ACCEPT GOD AND WHAT HE SAYS IN HIS WORD, YOU WILL BE ACCEPTED BY HIM; BUT IF YOU REJECT GOD AND WHAT HE SAYS IN HIS WORD, HE WILL REJECT YOU.

There are three things that declare the *Necessity of God*. The first is:

1-The Creation

In Romans 1:20 we read, "For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

In 1998, John Glenn, who had been the first American to orbit our planet, became the oldest man ever to go to space when he joined the *Discovery* Space Shuttle mission. The 76 year-old was greatly touched by his experience. Later Glenn described his second voyage to space this way: "To look at the window...as I did that first day...to look out at this kind of creation and not believe in God is to me impossible."

All you have to do is look around at the Creation to recognize the necessity of a Creator. When you see a watch you realize there was a watchmaker. When you see a house you recognize there was a builder. Things which exist don't just happen. There has to be a cause behind all that exists. How could anyone look at the Creation and deny there is a God who created it?

2-The Continuation Of Creation

According to the Scripture, it has been about 6,000 years since the 6-day creation of Genesis 1. How does it continue? Why do the sun, moon, and stars still shine? How do the birds keep on flying, and the fish keep on swimming? How do the rivers keep on running? Why do we still have day and night, winter and summer? What keeps the earth rotating on its axis without getting out of balance? What keeps the sun on its course? Why have there been no collisions of the elements in the solar system? What causes a seed to reproduce in its likeness so that we still have different kinds of trees, fruits, herbs, fish fowls, races, etc.? What is the answer to all these questions?

There has to be something or SOMEONE who holds all this together. Colossians 1:17. "And he is before all things, and by him all things consist." In simple language the word consist means "to hold together." So the answer is ... the Creation was created by God, and the Creation continues by God.

3-The Conscience

Although it is unexplainable by the educated minds of our day, there is something inside every human being that tells him there is a Supreme Being. There is someone for him to look up to. Why is this so? God put something inside every human being that declares to that individual, there is a God and I need Him in my life. This is so because God created man "in His own image, and after His own likeness."

"That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

John 1:9

II. THE NEED OF MAN... Dealing With Our Need

In the Old Testament writings, the most common titles or names used for God the Father is God, Jehovah or the Lord. But it is the New Testament that

most commonly refers to Him as God the Father or just Father. This title is the most popular title used for Him by Christians today. This name indicates the intimate relationship with God made possible since Jesus Christ came down unto mankind. While the title Father may be used in reference to God the Father in four different ways, these can best be understood when placed within two different categories.

A. Corrupt Usage

The first category is a corrupt usage of this title. Some falsely teach that God is the Father of all mankind since He is the creator of all. Thus they teach He is the Father of mankind. However, this is false reasoning. This reasoning would mean that He is Father of the rocks since he created them. No one would teach this. Yet, those who conclude that God is the Father of men because He created them is based upon the same faulty reasoning. These same teachers also teach the brotherhood of all mankind based of the same logic. Such teaching is unbiblical. Though God is creator of all men, He is not Father of all men. Therefore, this teaching espouses a corrupt usage of the title of God as Father.

B. Correct Usage

The second category is the correct usage of this title. There are three ways this title is used correctly.

1. Father of the Nation of Israel

Of this relationship, Hosea wrote, ***"When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt" (Hosea 11:1)***. Of this, Isaiah wrote, ***"Doubtless thou art our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O Lord, art our father, our redeemer; thy name is from everlasting" (Isaiah 63:16)***. Again, he wrote, ***"But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand" (Isaiah 64:8)***. In these verses, He is presented as the Father of the nation of Israel.

2. Father of Jesus Christ

As to this use of the title, Father, Isaiah wrote, ***"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given . . ." (Isaiah 9:6)***. It is important to note that while

a child was born, a son was given. He is the eternal Son of the eternal Father. Again and again in the New Testament, Jesus makes reference to God as His Father. He is the Father of Jesus Christ.

3. Father of all Christians

Paul wrote of this relationship, ***"One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Ephesians 4:6)***. The fact he wrote ***"in you all"*** makes it clear that he was speaking only of Christians in this verse. This verse speaks of God as the Father of all Christians. That is why John wrote, ***"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestoweth upon us, that we should be called the Sons of God" (1st John 3:1)***. Christians have been spiritually born of their heavenly Father.

God is the Father of the nation of Israel, Jesus Christ, and all Christians. These are the correct usages of the title of God as Father. He is the first person of the Trinity.

The titles or names of God the Father and the teachings concerning the fatherhood of God helps you to understand more about the first person of the Trinity—God the Father.

Conclusion: Some years ago Columbia University had a great football coach by the name of Lou Little. One day Lou had a boy try out for the varsity team who wasn't really very good. But Lou noticed that there was something unique about him—while he wasn't nearly good enough to make the team, he had such irrepressible spirit and contagious enthusiasm that Lou thought, This boy would be a great inspiration on the bench. He'll never be able to play, but I'll leave him on the team to encourage the others. As the season went on, Lou began to develop a tremendous admiration and love for this boy. One of the things that especially impressed him was the manner with which the boy obviously cared for his father. Whenever the father would come for a visit to the campus the boy and his father would always be seen walking together, arm in arm, an obvious indication of an exceptional bond of love between them. They could always be seen on Sunday going to and from the university chapel. It was obvious that theirs was a deep and mutually shared Christian faith. Then, one day, a telephone call came to Coach Little. He was informed that the boy's father had just died—would he be the one to tell the boy? With a heavy heart Lou informed the boy of his father's death, and he immediately

left to go home for the funeral.

A few days later the boy returned to the campus, only two days before the biggest game of the season. Lou went to him and said, "Is there anything I can do for you? Anything at all?" And to the coach's astonishment the boy said, "Let me start the game on Saturday!" Lou was taken aback. He thought, I can't let him start—he's not good enough. But he remembered his promise to help and said, "All right—you can start the game," but he thought to himself, I'll leave him in for a few plays and then take him out.

The day of the big game arrived. To everyone's surprise the coach started this boy who had never played in a game all season. But imagine even the coach's surprise when, on the very first play from scrimmage, that boy was the one who single-handedly made a tackle that threw the opposing team for a loss. The boy went on to play inspired football play after play. In fact, he played so exceptionally that Lou left him in for the entire game; the boy led his team to victory and he was voted the outstanding player of the game. When the game was finally over Lou approached the boy and said, "Son, what got into you today?" And the boy replied, "You remember when my father would visit me here at school and we would spend a lot of time together walking arm in arm around the campus? My father and I shared a secret that nobody around here knew anything about. You see, my father was blind—and today was the first time he ever saw me play!"

1. **If You Call God Your Father . . . Realize He Rules.**
2. **If You Call God Your Father . . . Realize He Redeems.**
3. **If You Call God Your Father . . . Realize He Resurrects.**