

God the Father

Article II

God the Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff; 20:1ff; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3, 15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.

Key Text:

Genesis 1:1: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Exodus 3:14: “And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

Exodus 20:1-3: “And God spoke all these words, saying: “*I am* the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me.”

Deuteronomy 6:4: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord *is* one!”

Deuteronomy 32:6: “Do you thus deal with the Lord, O foolish and unwise people? *Is* He not your Father, who bought you? Has He not made you and established you?”

1 Chronicles 29:10: “Therefore David blessed the Lord before all the assembly; and David said: ‘Blessed are You, Lord God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever.’”

Isaiah 43:3: “For *I am* the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior...”

Isaiah 64:8: “But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand.”

Matthew 6:9-10: “In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Matthew 28:19: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 8:14-15: “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, Abba, Father.”

Galatians 4:4-7: “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”

Ephesians 4:4-6: “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

Major Theological Observations: A Brief Commentary

At the heart and center of Christian faith and practice is the great and glorious triune God of Scripture. Unfortunately, as David Wells has reminded us in his important work, *No Place for Truth*, what a secular and postmodern age often does to “God” is not to eliminate him, but rather to relocate him from the center of our lives to that which is periphery and inconsequential. Unfortunately, this effect of living in a secular age is often true of the church as well.

However, this is something the God of the Bible will not allow. For when we turn to Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, we are presented with “the only one living and true God,” our Creator, our Lord, and our Father.

It is an awesome privilege to confess and affirm Article 2a of the *BF&M* – “God the Father.” For as the statement reminds us, the God of Scripture is a Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Because of God’s gracious work of redemption of Christ, we may now “become children of God” and have the supreme joy of calling God our Father.

We who were ruined by the Fall and who rightly stood under God’s just condemnation are now, by grace, “through faith in Jesus Christ,” able to address God as Father.

First John 3:1 wonderfully reminds us, “How great is the love the Father has lavished us, that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are.”

But it must be quickly added that this great privilege of knowing God as our Father is only found “through faith in Jesus Christ.”

The *BF&M* correctly notes that God, as providential Lord, is “fatherly in his attitude toward all men” (Matt 5:43-48; Acts 14:15-17; Rom 2:1-4). In God’s sovereign care over His creation, thru His work of providence, he sustains and keeps the world that he has made, sending both rain and sunshine alike upon believer and unbeliever.

A Summary of Theological Truths

- 1) God is Father. He is personal. He is not “mother” nor an “it.”
- 2) God is Lord of the Universe. All things come under His authority.
- 3) God is Lord of History. Time had a beginning, as did the universe. History has purpose and a *telos* or conclusion.
- 4) God is omnipotent.
- 5) God is omniscient.
- 6) God is omni-benevolent or loving.
- 7) God is omni-wise.
- 8) God is omnipresent.
- 9) God is fatherly toward all but only Father to those who become His children by adoption through faith in Jesus Christ.