

3. The Father

God the Eternal Father is the Creator, Source, Sustainer, and Sovereign of all creation. He is just and holy, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. The qualities and powers exhibited in the Son and the Holy Spirit are also revelations of the Father.

God the Father is the Creator, Source, Sustainer, and Ruler of all creation. He is in no sense detached or aloof from His created beings and their needs but daily gives them life.

- He created all things. Genesis 1: 1; Revelation 4:11
- He is the source of all life. Acts 17:28-29; Psalm 36:9 a He sustains all life. Psalm 104:27-30
- He is Sovereign over all the universe for all eternity. 1 Corinthians 15:28
- He abounds in love and faithfulness. Deuteronomy 7:9; Exodus 34:6

God's holiness and justice which require that sinners be destroyed are mingled with His love, mercy, and grace that make forgiveness and salvation available to all who will receive them.

- He is just, holy, and merciful. Exodus 34: 7
- He extends His grace to us. 1 John 1:9; John 3:16

Texts for further study: Romans 3:24-26; 1 Peter I: 15-16; Isaiah 6:3; 1 John 4:8; Psalm 97:2; 1 Timothy 1:17

The characteristics of the Father are also seen in the Son and Holy Spirit.

- The Father's character is revealed by Jesus. John 14:9; Hebrews 1:2-3
- The Holy Spirit reveals the Father and Son to us. John 16:13-15

Personal Application

- What difference in my relationship to God does it make for me to think of Him as a Father rather than just as a remote Creator?
- Since God considers me His child, how should I treat His other children—my brothers and sisters?
- I am not an orphan left to make my own way through life without a heavenly Father. I want to learn to know my heavenly Father better, to be a worthy child of His, and to rightly represent His family in the world.

Commitment

- I accept You, God, as my dear Father, and by Your grace—Your power—I choose to live as a worthy child of Yours.