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Facts About Our Heavenly Father

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BIBLE STUDY



by Harold L. Willmington

Facts About Our Heavenly 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.)

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.)

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 (Matt. 19:26).

He is omniscient (Matt. 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 (Matt. 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 all life. (Ps. 36:9; John 5:26; Acts 17:24-25). He tends and cares for:

Vegetation (Ps. 104:14,16; Matt. 6:28-30).

Brute nature (Ps. 104:14,16,18,20,21,27; Matt. 6:26; 10:29).

The weather (Ps. 135:6-7).

The seasons (Gen. 8:22; Acts 14:17).

II. He is the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ. During His earthly ministry Jesus spoke more about the Father than any other subject.

The Father sent His Son (John 6:57; 20:21).

He commanded the angels to worship His Son (Luke 2:8-15).

He sealed His Son (John 6:27).

He honored (and honors) His Son (John 8:54).

He bore witness to His Son (John 8:18).

He loved (and loves) His Son (John 10:17).

He glorified His Son (John 12:27-28).

He taught His Son (John 8:28).

He anointed His Son (Luke 4:16-21).

He delighted in His Son (Matt. 3:17; 17:5).

He listened to His Son (John 11:41-42; 12:27-28).

He offered His Son (Rom. 8:32; 1 John 4:9-10).

He was totally satisfied by His Son (John 8:29).

He raised His Son (Gal. 1:1; Eph. 1:20).

He exalts His Son (Phil. 2:9-11).

He makes His Son head of the church (Eph. 1:22).

He commits judgment unto His Son (John 3:35; 5:22,27).

III. He is the Father of all believers. While God is the *Creator* of all men (Gen. 1:27; Eccl. 12:1; Acts 17:24-26), He is the *Father* only of believers (1 John 3:1).

He foreknew the believer (Rom. 8:29; 1 Peter 1:2).

He predestinated the believer (Rom. 8:29).

He elected the believer (Eph. 1:4).

He gave all the elected believers to Christ (John 6:37,44).

He called the believer (Rom. 8:30).

He conforms the believer to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:29).

He redeemed the believer (Eph. 1:7).

He justified the believer (Rom. 8:33).

He indwells the believer (John 14:23).

He sealed the believer with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13; 4:30). 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.

He keeps the believer (John 17:11).

He honors the believer (John 12:26).

He blesses the believer (Eph. 1:3).

He loves the believer (2 Thess. 2:16).

He comforts the believer (2 Cor. 1:13; Rev. 21:4).

He sanctifies the believer (Jude 1).

He bestows peace upon the believer (Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:3; Gal. 1:3; Eph. 1:2; Phil. 1:2; Col. 1:2; 1 Thess 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:2; Titus 1:4).

He is glorified when the believer bears fruit (John 15:8).

He reveals truth to the believer (Matt. 11:25).

He supplies the needs of believers (Matt. 6:32-33; Eph. 4:19).

He seeks the worship of believers (John 4:23).

He chastens believers (Heb. 12:5-10).

He restores the believer (Ps. 23:3; 51:12; Luke 15:21-24).

He will someday gather all believers in Christ (Eph. 1:10).

He will someday reward all believers (Matt. 6:1; 2 Tim. 4:8).

He will someday glorify all believers (Rom. 8:30).

Adapted from *Willmington's Guide to the Bible* © Tyndale's House.