

# God The Father

God the Father is the first Person of the Trinity, of whom the Son is eternally begotten and from whom the Holy Spirit eternally proceeds. Our Lord Jesus called God his eternal Father and identified himself as his only eternal Son. Thus, the Father is, first of all, the Father of the Son. The bible teaches us that before creation the Father was loving the son.

The Son taught his disciples to address God as Father in prayer. The apostle Paul teaches that God adopts believers as his children, sending the Spirit of the Son into their hearts so they cry out, "Abba, Father." As adopted children in the Son, we may address the Father as Jesus does. In calling God "Father," we acknowledge that God exists in personal relationship and that we were created by God for a personal relationship with him.

Calling God Father does not insinuate that God is male. God has no body, since by nature God is Spirit. The Holy Scriptures reveal God as a living God beyond all sexual distinctions. Scripture uses diverse images for God, female as well as male.

God the Father is "Almighty" as the God who is love—a holy love that is powerful beyond measure. God is omnipotent—he can do anything he wants to do. We understand the love and power of God most clearly through Jesus Christ. In Jesus' life of compassion, his death on the cross, and his resurrection from the dead, we see how vast God's love for the world is a love that is ready to suffer for our sakes, yet so strong that nothing will prevail against it.

God called heaven and earth into being out of nothing by the power of his Word. By that same power, all things are upheld and governed in perfect goodness, righteousness and wisdom, according to God's eternal purpose.