

Our Father God

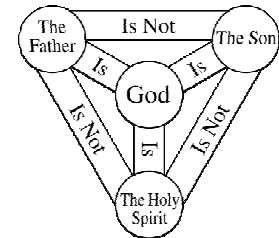
Dr. Jay Zinn • 1/24/10 • River's Edge Church

On January 5th I awoke from a dream that confirmed a leading I'd been sensing to do a series on the Godhead. In my first message we established the Triune nature of the Godhead. The early church fathers in the 5th century had to defend the revelation of the Godhead from the heretical extremes of *Unitarianism* (one God without three distinct personalities) and *Tritheism* (rejects the oneness of the Godhead; teaches there are three Gods). To combat these extremes they formulated the **Athanasian Creed** which began with:

Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold to the [whole, universal and true] Faith. That Faith which, unless everyone keeps whole and undefiled, without doubt shall perish for all eternity.

And the true faith is this:

- That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity;
- Neither confounding the persons nor dividing the substance.
- For there is one person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Spirit.
- But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit is all one, the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.



Shield of the Trinity

Dr. Dale (19th Century):

“From eternity to eternity GOD is FATHER, SON, and HOLY SPIRIT.
The Father is God, but not apart from the Son or the Holy Spirit.
The Son is God, but not apart from the Father and Holy Spirit.
The Holy Spirit is God, but not apart from the Father and the Son.
There is but ONE GOD but in the GODHEAD there are THREE PERSONS.
There are not three Gods, but in the life and the being of the one God,
there are three centers of consciousness, volition and activity, and these are known as
THE FATHER, THE SON, and THE HOLY SPIRIT.”

Notable Quotes:

“All of God does all that God does.”

*“The Father **initiates**, the Son (Word) **mediates**, and the Holy Spirit **administrates**.”*

*“The Father **thinks** it, the Son **speaks** it, and the Holy Spirit **does** it.”*

*“The Father **honors** the Son, the Son **honors** the Father, and the Holy Spirit **honors** the Son.”*

In the New Testament:

The Father is presented as electing, adopting, loving, and bestowing.

The Son is presented as suffering, redeeming, and upholding the universe.

The Holy Spirit is presented as regenerating, indwelling, baptizing, energizing, and sanctifying.

The Athanasian Creed goes on to declare about the God the FATHER...

- The Father **uncreated**,
- The Father **incomprehensible**,
- The Father **eternal**,
- The Father **is almighty**,
- The Father **is God**,
- The Father **is made of none, neither created nor begotten**.

Biblical Symbolic Illustrations of the FATHER in the Trinity:

1. Celestials	) Sun (source of light, fire, & life)) Moon) Stars	Father God (is light unapproachable) Son Holy Spirit
2. Noah's Ark	) 1st Story (foundation, beginning)) 2nd Story) 3rd Story	Father God (is our foundation) Son Holy Spirit
3. The God of...	) Abraham (Father, Begetter, Faith)) Isaac) Jacob	Father God (offered his only Son) Son Holy Spirit
4. Mercy Seat	) One Cherub (Approves the Blood)) Seat) One Cherub	Father God (approves Son's death) Son Holy Spirit
5. Ark Contents	) Tables of Law (Law Giver, Holiness)) Golden Pot of Manna) Aaron's Budded Rod	Father God (Gave Moses the Law) Son Holy Spirit
6. Aaron's Rod	) The Bud (beginning of life)) The Flower) The Almond	Father God (Source of life) Son Holy Spirit
7. Burning Bush	) The Voice (Initiator, Relationship)) The Bush) The Fire	Father God (Calls out to us) Son Holy Spirit

Specific Characteristics of God the Father:

- The First Person of the Trinity in mode of operation.
- The First Cause, the Original, the Source, The Absolute, the Fountain-head of all wisdom.
- The Father of all creation (Eph. 3:14-15; Acts 17:29 – "...we are the offspring of God.").
- The Architect, Designer, Controller, and Sustainer.
- The Father of spirits (Heb. 12:9).
- The Father of lights (James 1:17)
- The Father of Israel (Ex. 4:22 – "Israel is my son...").
- He is invisible.
- He is unapproachable light (1 Tim. 6:16).
- He is all-powerful, all-present, all-knowing, unchangeable, and eternal.
- He is love, holy, just, righteous.
- He loves, disciplines, protects, provides, defends, and is always present.
- He is the perfect model of fatherhood in leading, caring, nurturing, and commitment.
- He is a father to the "fatherless" (Ps. 68:5).
- He will seek out his lost children; i.e. – the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-31).
- He initiates relationship through covenants (Noah, Abraham, Israel, David, and us).
- He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Ps. 2:7; Isa. 7:14; Mt. 3:17; 17:5; Lk. 9:35; Eph. 1:3).
- He willingly sacrificed his only begotten Son for us (Gen. 22:1-14; Isa. 53:10; John 3:16).
- He has adopted us as "sons" through Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:4-6).
- He is "Abba" Father (Rom. 8:15).
- He is called the Ancient of Days, his clothing white as snow and hair white like wool (Dan 7:9).
- His throne is aflame with fire (Dan. 7:9; Heb. 12:29).
- He sits on the throne in heaven, encircled by a rainbow resembling an emerald (Rev. 4:2-3).