

God the Father

His Purpose, Nature, & Character

To Keep Us

Jude 1, 2

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ: **2** Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

1 Peter 1: 3-7

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are **kept** by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

Transform Us

Romans 8:28-30

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be conformed* to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Justifies Us

Romans 8:30-33

³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies.

Begets the Son (Eternal Generation)

John 6:57

⁵⁷ As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread which came down from heaven--not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."

*It is a generation of the personal subsistence rather than of the divine essence of the Son. It brings *distinctio* and *distributio*, but no *diversitas* and *divisio* in the divine Being. (Bavinck). It is that eternal and necessary act of the first person in the Trinity, whereby He, within the divine Being, is the ground of a second personal subsistence like His own, and puts this second person in possession of the whole divine essence, without any division, alienation, or change.*

Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids, 1949), pp. 93-94.

His Nature

John 1:18

¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.

John 4:23, 24

²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Invisible

Hebrews 11:28

²⁷ By faith he (Moses), forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

I Timothy 1:17

¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

His Character

- That of Father

John 6:44-46

⁴⁴ No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, *'And they shall all be taught by God.'* Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. ⁴⁶ Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father.

What of Gender Inclusive Language?

"But surely we must hold," someone will object, "that Jesus' view of God was historically conditioned like that of his contemporaries? His masculine language for God cannot be part of the 'fullness of God's self-disclosure,' as you suppose. It was merely a residue of first century Jewish sexism. We must look instead to the 'transhistorical significance' of his teaching. And that is not the Fatherhood of God but the Godhood of the Father—that God is a loving Parent."

WHY GOD IS FATHER AND NOT MOTHER Mark Brumley

- *“At least two false claims lie hidden in that objection. The first is that Jesus’ own concept of God was “historically conditioned.” The second, that we can strip away a patriarchal “coating” to His notion of God to get at the gender-inclusive idea of the Divine Parent beneath. In other words, God’s Fatherhood, per se, is not central to Jesus’ revelation of God, only those qualities which fathers share with mothers—“parenthood,” in other words.”*

“But was Jesus’ view of God “historically conditioned”? Not if you mean by “historically conditioned” “wholly explicable in terms of the religious thinking of His day.” We have no reason to think Jesus uncritically imbibed the prevailing ideas about God. He certainly felt free to correct inadequate ideas from the Old Testament in other respects (see, for example, Matt. 5:21-48) and to contravene religio-cultural norms, especially regarding women. He had women disciples, for example. He spoke with women in public. He even allowed women to be the first witnesses of His resurrection. How, then, on this most central point—the nature and identity of God—are we to suppose He was either unable, due to His own sexism and spiritual blindness, or unwilling, to set people straight about God as Father? Even if you deny Jesus’ divinity or hold to a watered-down notion of it, such a view remains impossible to maintain.”

The Father as Father

The doctrine of the Trinity tells us the answer to these questions is "yes." The First Person of the Trinity, Trinitarian doctrine reminds us, is the Father. He is, in fact, Father of the Son, the Second Person of the Trinity (CCC 240). Before all worlds and from all eternity, the First Person "begot" the Second Person, who eternally proceeds from the Father, "God from God, light from light, true God from true God," as the Creed puts it (CCC 242). In the Trinity, the Father is the Underived Principle of the Son (and through Him, of the Spirit as well); He is the Source or Unoriginated Origin of the Triune God.

WHY GOD IS FATHER AND NOT MOTHER **Mark Brumley**

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Wholly Holy

Joshua 24:19-21

¹⁹ But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for He *is* a holy God. He *is* a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. ²⁰ If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after He has done you good." ²¹ And the people said to Joshua, "No, but we will serve the LORD!"