

We Believe: In the Father

Various Texts

Article 1 (EFCA Statement of Faith)

- “We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.”

The 3-in-1

- The Father is one of the 3 persons of the Trinity
- All 3 Persons share the attributes of God
 - All are perfect, eternal, unlimited, holy, and loving
- Their roles are slightly different, but overlap greatly
 - All are involved in Creation, Salvation, Purposing, and Sovereignty (1 Cor. 8:6; 1 Peter 1:2)
 - Such is their unity

Why the Image of “Father”?

- Creation as an act of will (See John 1:13; Deut. 32:6b)
- A picture of relationship
 - God’s relationship with His creation is like a father’s to his children (Deut. 1:31; Ps. 68:5)
- Thus, the importance of the 5th Commandment (see Ex. 20:12)
 - And the role of idolatry in parenthood in the 2nd Commandment (see Ex. 20:4-6)
 - The proper image of God is the perfect image of parenthood

The Father’s Love

- He is giving (Matt. 7:9-11; Rom. 8:32)
- He is unchanging and a source of stability in an unstable world (Ps. 89:26)
- He disciplines when it is necessary (Heb. 12:7)

How to be the Father’s Child

- Isn’t everyone? (Mal. 2:10; Eph. 4:6)
- All humans are made in God’s image (see Gen. 1:26-27)
 - But not all have a relationship with Him
 - All the above texts were written to people with established relationships with God
- To be God’s child, we must be redefined by our relationship with Him (John 1:12-13)
 - This relationship is possible through the death and resurrection of Jesus (1 John 5:1; Gal. 4:6)

So What?

- God is our Father when we trust in Jesus
 - As His children, we are to emulate our Father (Eph. 5:1)
 - As parents, we are to represent the Father to our children

Meditation Verse: *1 John 3:1*