

Foundations of Faith (A Catechism for Today)

Sunday 5 – January 29

Question 11: Are faith and reason contradictory?

No. Faith uses reason and always seeks to understand. Not only are we commanded to love God with all our mind as with all our heart and soul, but we are also counselled to be ready at any time to give an answer to anyone who wants a reason for the hope that we have in us.

Jn 10:38 Even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.

Mt 22:37 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

1 Pet 3:15 Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

God the Father

Question 12: What do we believe when we say, “I believe in God, the Father almighty”?

Believing is more than agreeing that there is a Supreme Being. In believing we trust in and commit ourselves to the God who is declared in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and revealed in Jesus Christ. The creed affirms that God is the Father and that God is almighty.

Jas 2:19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe – and shudder.

Prov 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Heb 1:3 He [the Son] is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being.

Question 13: Why do we call God “the Father”?

First and foremost, the word “Father” identifies God as the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In calling God “my Father and your Father”, Jesus invites all humanity to acknowledge and to share with him the privilege of being God’s child.

2 Cor 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies.

Jn 20:17 “I am ascending to my Father and your Father to my God and your God.”

Gal 4:6 And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Mt 11:27 “My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

Lk 10:22 “My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

Jn 1:14-18, 14:18-28 So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unending love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son. John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, “This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.’” From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses, but God’s unending love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father’s heart. He has revealed God to us.

No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.” Judas (not Judas Iscariot, but the other disciple with that name) said to him, “Lord, why are you going to reveal yourself only to us and not to the world at large?” Jesus replied, “All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them. Anyone who doesn’t love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me. I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you. “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid. Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again. If you really loved me, you would be happy that I am going to the Father, who is greater than I am.

Eph 1:3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.

Col 1:3 We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Pet 1:3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation

1 Jn 2:22-23 And who is a liar? Anyone who says that Jesus is not the Christ. Anyone who denies the Father and the Son is an antichrist. Anyone who denies the Son doesn’t have the Father, either. But anyone who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

2 Jn 3 Grace, mercy, and peace, which come from God the Father and from Jesus Christ—the Son of the Father—will continue to be with us who live in truth and love.