

Foundations of Faith (A Catechism for Today)

Sunday 6 – February 5

Question 14: In calling God “Father” do we mean that God is male?

No. God is Spirit and is neither male nor female. Scripture speaks of God as Father but also represents God as saying, “As a mother comforts her child, I will comfort you”

(Isaiah 66:13). God’s fatherhood is the source and pattern for human fatherhood and motherhood.

Jn 4:24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

Eph 3:14-15 I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.

Isa 49:15 Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

Mt 23:37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn’t let me.

Gal 3:28 There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Eph 4:5, 5:21 There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism. And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Question 15: What does it mean to confess that God is “almighty”?

We affirm that God is mighty in all things. After speaking of God as great and powerful, Jeremiah exclaims, “Nothing is too hard for you” (Jeremiah 32:17). The prophet connects God’s power with God’s steadfast love. God is a God of love and this love is powerful beyond measure. God’s great love was revealed in Jesus’ death on the cross and God’s power was shown in raising him from the dead (Romans 4:24).

Jer 32:17-18 Ah Lord God! It is you who made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. You show steadfast love to the thousandth generation.

Jer 32:27 See, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is anything too hard for me?

Ps 106:8 Yet he saved them for his name’s sake, so that he might make known his mighty power.

1 Cor 1:18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Jn 3:16 For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

Rom 1:16, 6:9, 8:11 For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

Gal 1:1; Col 2:12 This letter is from Paul, an apostle. I was not appointed by any group of people or any human authority, but by Jesus Christ himself and by God the Father, who raised Jesus from the dead. For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

God, Creator and Ruler

Question 16: What do we affirm when we say that God is “creator of heaven and earth”?

We affirm that in the beginning, out of nothing, God created all that is. God spoke and all things came into being. Men and women were created in God’s image. Everything that God made was very good.

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Gen 1:3-4 Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

Gen 1:27, 31 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them: male and female he created them. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

Jn 1:3 God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.

Rom 4:11 Circumcision was a sign that Abraham already had faith and that God had already accepted him and declared him to be righteous—even before he was circumcised. So Abraham is the spiritual father of those who have faith but have not been circumcised. They are counted as righteous because of their faith.

Heb 11:3 By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God’s command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.