Life in Christ: Session Three

God the Father: Creator of Life

**OVERVIEW:** Our knowledge of God does not and cannot come from within us, we do not seek God or understand God through our own reason or intellect. Our knowledge of God and relationship with Him is based upon His self-revelation. God has made and continues to make Himself known via His creation. Genesis 1 and 2 is God’s description of His mighty acts of creation. He is the creator of all things and the author of all life; both the physical and the spiritual.

This session focuses on the 1st article of the Creed, which states our belief in a God as Father as well as Creator. The Creation accounts of Genesis are significant and reveal a great deal about God and us. Since God is telling His story of creation, we must keep in mind that God may not be (and most likely is not) answering all our questions about the creation event. Instead, we can discover wants us to know and believe.

**“I Believe in God…”**

 **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

 **Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible

and invisible.

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN**?

**Key Words:**

**“I believe in God…”**

This statement of faith is a personal statement. It is my belief in God, not another who believes for me. NO ONE can believe on behalf of another. God works faith in the heart of each individual. Therefore, it is always, always personal faith in response to God’s work.

It is a personal response that we state in public, especially as a key component of our corporate worship. Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes chapter 4 that we need each other, especially on our journey of faith. *Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.****10****For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!****11****Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone?****12****And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.* (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

John 20:24-25 =

Hebrews 11:1 & 6 =

James 2:19 =

**“the Father Almighty…”**

There is good “Lutheran” tension in these juxtaposed statements. Luther stated in his introduction to the Lord’s Prayer, “God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.” So, at the same time, in the same breath we confess that we believe that our loving Father is also God Almighty.

Matthew 7:7-11 =

John 14:8-14 =

John 16:16-24 =

*Several things revealed:*

1. 
2.
3.

**“maker of heaven and earth…”**

All we can see and know is God’s handiwork and has His fingerprints on it. We are all created with distinction and uniqueness; with a distinct plan and design. All is His, for He has made it! Our statement of faith is NOT merely words on a page or recitations in a service, it is a statement of belief that results in a lifestyle.

Hebrews 1:1-3 =

Psalm 139:14 =

1st Peter 1:17-21 =

1st Peter 2:9 =

*Consider this, how does this statement of faith affect our life with regard to the following?*

* Fear, worry and anxiety:
* Greed and coveting:
* Pride:
* Courage and confidence:
* Peace of mind/heart:
* Thanksgiving:

**The Creation: Two Accounts**

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| --- | --- |
| **Genesis 1:1 – 2:3** | **Genesis 2:4 – 24** |
| * Creation of the Universe
* God
* Creation controlled
* An Imperial Command
 | * Creation of the Earth
* The Lord God
* Creation nourished
* A Master Craftsman
 |

More tension???? Does this mean there is contradiction in the Scriptures???? If we operate from the perspective of and with the conviction that God is telling us the truth, then we are free to seek the truth He is revealing rather than looking for “falsehoods” or incongruities according to our logic or reason.

In fact, we can rejoice at the 2 accounts and consider that God has given us a gift through the accounts. In the first account, it is clearly a record of the works of Almighty God, the maker of all that is visible and invisible. God made all that is out of nothing – ex nihilo – with just the command of His Word. It expresses and emphasizes His transcendence.

The second account is far more personal. God is a master craftsman, delighting in and enjoying His handiwork. He gets down in the dirt and forms the man and woman with His own hands. We have a purpose and design given to us by God. He calls us by name and makes us in His image. This account expresses and emphasizes His immanence. The human race was created perfectly and in perfect union with God, the creator. People were designed expressly to know Him and to be known by Him.

**The Purpose of the Creation Accounts**

Each account has different designs and purposes, different truth that God is revealing. We see God as both the almighty creator and as a loving father. We see His creation as an incredible work of art that also is intricately designed. We, the human race, are held up by the creator as the pinnacle of His work.

**Genesis 1 and 2 confess:**

1. God created the universe and all that is in it.
2. God is a God of order.
3. God created everything good.
4. Other nations and cultures false views are rejected.
5. Human beings are the high point of God’s creation.
6. There is meaning in history: there is a beginning and an end.
7. People are given an exalted mission.
8. God is the creator and owner of all things.
9. God cannot be deceived or manipulated.
10. Humanity is made in relationship with a loving God who is intimately involved in all aspects of their lives – so we worship Him.

**For Further Study and Discussion**

The people of Israel were given the responsibility of being witnesses for God to the rest of the world. God saved them from the Egyptians, He set them free from slavery. This salvation brought with it an expectation that they would proclaim the grace and mercy of God to surrounding nations and people.

*On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai.****2****They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain,****3****while Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel:****4****‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.****5****Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;****6****and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”* (Exodus 19:1-6)

In order to do this well and with faithfulness, God revealed Himself and, thereby corrected the false beliefs and religions of the pagan (unbelieving) world around them. In the section below, for each of the false beliefs, identify God’s revealed truth that corrects the false one.

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| **False religions teach…** | **God has revealed…** |
| There are many gods |  |
| There are male and female deities |  |
| The creator used preexisting materials |  |
| Humans are to worship sun, moon, and stars |  |
| Humanity is locked into a cycle |  |
| Humanity is an afterthought of creation or a result of macro-evolution |  |
| People have the ability to manipulate the gods for personal benefit |  |
| God bears responsibility for evil in the world |  |
| Creation is the result of providing a means for or stepping stone to an eternal state |  |