

The Father of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Bible makes it very clear there is only one God. To a Jew, brought up to read the Old Testament, it would be clear that God is a single being with supreme power. God is no different in the New Testament, but here we meet his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is no one who can compare with God. He is, and always will be, supreme. Jesus Christ is separate and distinct from Him.

God's Son

Jesus is biologically God's one and only Son, born to Mary by the power of God's Holy Spirit. Therefore, the child who was born was himself 'holy'.

The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that holy one who is to be born will be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35).

Jesus made it clear that he had a unique and intimate relationship with his Father, more so than any other human son and father. There were those who accused him of blasphemy because they thought he considered himself equal with God. His reply was:

If I do not do the works of my Father, do not believe me; but if I do, though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in me, and I in Him (John 10:37-38).

There is a difference between being God and being *in* God. Jesus is not equal with God, even now. He is described as the 'Word of God', and he is the living expression of his Father in all that he says and does:

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son (Hebrews 1:1-2).

Jesus always deferred to his Father and acknowledged that his authority came only from God.

For I have not spoken on my own authority; but the Father who sent me gave me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told me, so I speak (John 12:49-50).



The Saviour

In God's plan, Jesus was born for the express purpose of saving human beings from slavery to sin and permanent death. In fact, his name even means 'God Saves'.

Being human like us, he was tempted to disobey God in just the same way as we are tempted. But throughout his life, Jesus resisted. He chose the path of obedience and, unlike us, he did not waver from it. It could be said of him, as of nobody else, that he was sinless.

For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens (Hebrews 7:26).

This obedience was not achieved without cost to himself: it was a real struggle. He overcame sin through sheer determination.

Though he was a son, yet he learned obedience by the things which he suffered. And having been perfected, he became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey him (Hebrews 5:8-9).

God's Representative

God is so powerful and so great, that He can be difficult to comprehend for a limited human mind. This is another way in which Jesus is so special. As God's Son, he has revealed, or represented, his Father to mankind. Jesus said in prayer:

I have manifested [shown] Your name to the men whom You have given me

out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to me, and they have kept Your word (John 17:6).

We read of Jesus:

Who being the brightness of His [God's] glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high (Hebrews 1:3).

He showed us God, not in appearance but in the things he said and did. Children are often like their parents in their character and way of speaking, not just in how they look.



Jesus revealed God to others in word and action. He said of himself:

He who has seen me has seen the Father... Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own authority; but the Father who dwells in me does the works (John 14:9-10).

God's Son has God's authority. Even during his mortal life Jesus was able to say, "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30). He meant that God and His Son were in perfect harmony and that he truly represented his Father. Everything he did, he did in obedience to God and on His behalf. He could pray:

I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given me to do (John 17:4).

God is supreme, but Jesus is His representative. When Jesus comes again, he will once more be seen to act on God's behalf in all that he does.

God's Heir

Jesus was completely obedient to his Father so, after his death on the cross, God brought him back to life and made him His heir.

[God] has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things (Hebrews 1:2).

Children inherit from their parents, usually money and property. In the

case of Jesus, being God's heir means receiving power over the world. Soon he will be seen on the earth again, ruling the world for his Father. The Psalmist wrote of this as a prophecy:

I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to me, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you. Ask of Me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for your possession" (Psalm 2:7-8).

This is not an academic subject, something we should leave to professors of theology and clergymen. Jesus said in prayer:

This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent (John 17:3).

So it's a matter of life and death: not just to know about God and Jesus, but to thoroughly understand their relationship and the role which God has given Jesus. And you can't enter into a relationship with someone, unless you know the truth about them.

Rod Hale

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