



## Who Is God, The Father? by Sellers S Crain, Jr

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

### Introduction:

#### A. God is like:

1. Ford – He has a better idea.
2. Coke – He is the real thing.
3. Hallmark cards – He cared enough to send the very best.
4. Tide – He gets the stains out that others leave behind.
5. GE – He brings good things to life.
6. Alka Seltzer - If you know Him, O what a relief that is.
7. Scotch tape – You can't see Him, but you know He is there.
8. Allstate – You are in the best of hands with Him.

#### B. Who God is, is one of the most important questions we can ask. (**James 1:17**)

1. One writer said, "Atheism is defined as knowing there is no God. It is impossible to know about the existence of something about which you don't know." "The fool said in his heart; there is no God." (**Psalms 14:1**)
2. Agnostics say they don't know if there is a God or not. Once again, they are left at the same point as atheist. Simply not knowing about something they have no knowledge of.
3. If there is no God, then we are left with no answers for many significant questions: How did I get here? Why am I here? In terms of morality, how do I know the difference between good and bad, right and wrong, righteousness and wickedness? What happens when I die? Atheists are all dressed up with no place to go.
4. I'm going to make a statement many people say I can't make, and that is, I know God exists. Paul writing about Gentiles who did not have God's written law said, "For since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes are clearly seen being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse." (**Romans 1:20**)
5. I do not have to know everything to know there is a God. As the Psalmist said, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice..." (**19:1-4**)
6. I know He exists because I talk to Him in prayer. He talks to me through His word inspired by His Holy Spirit. I have a personal relationship with Him. He is my Spiritual Father who begat me spiritually. "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible through the word of God which lives and abides forever." (**1 Peter 1:22-23**; see **Romans 8:16**)

7. People will say, "Prove to me God exists." It is not our responsibility to prove God exists. It is the unbeliever's responsibility to honestly examine the evidence for His existence, and then prove He doesn't exist.
8. We have no reason to doubt. The evidence is on our side. (**Hebrews 11:1**) All we have to do is believe in all that He has done, and continues to do, and He will let us know who He is and where to find the answers.

C. When we closely examine the characteristics and attributes of God revealed in Scripture, it will help us to better understand Who God our Father is.

## **I. GOD IS THE CREATOR.**

A. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (**Genesis 1:1**)

1. God revealed Himself first to Adam as the creator God Elohim, which is a word used over 2,600 times in the Bible in some form. In Hebrew, it is a uni-plural noun meaning more than one person. The word is translated God in the phrase known as the Shema says, "Hear O' Israel, the Lord (YHWH) our Elohim (YHWH) is One." (**Deuteronomy 6:4**)
2. Although the Genesis text uses Elohim, the text from Deuteronomy says "God is one." This is our first introduction to the Godhead, the Trinity, composed of God the Father, Christ the Word, and the Holy Spirit. One divine Spirit shared by three distinct persons. (**1 John 5:7**)
3. He revealed Himself to Abraham as the everlasting God and gracious provider. (**Genesis 12:1-3**) He revealed Himself to Hagar as the One who sees. (**16:13**) He revealed Himself to Jacob as the God of Israel. (**32:28**)
4. When God commissioned Moses to go to Pharaoh and tell him to "Let My people go!" Moses asked who he should tell the children of Israel That sent him, God answered, "I AM WHO I AM...Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you." (**Exodus 3:14**) In the Hebrew, it is YHWH, which the Jews considered a Holy covenant name that could not even be spoken or written. It is said that when scribes wrote the word, they would stop, use a new quill, write it, and then brake the quill and destroy it. What does the name mean? It means God is the eternal One, the ultimate statement of self-sufficiency, the eternally consistent. self-directed, and unchanging One. (**Revelation 1:8**)
5. He revealed Himself to us in nature, through His word, and through His Son, who is the Word made flesh. (**John 1:1;14; 18**)

B. To put it simply, God always has been and always will be.

1. We have only two choices when it comes to answering the questions asked earlier. Something can't come from nothing. Two things exist - mind and matter. Either we are the product of mindless, lifeless matter which somehow mysteriously created energy that brought about life, or we are the creation of a superior divine intelligence capable of creating matter and manipulating it.
2. It is unreasonable and unthinkable to believe that nonliving and amoral matter could have produced a living, thinking, moral being. It must be that a superior mind which has always existed created matter out of which all things exist.
3. The word for created, is the Hebrew word BARA, which means to bring something entirely new, or bring something out of nothing. (**Genesis 1:1**) Bara appears about 50 times in the Old Testament and is only used in reference to God creating.
4. We say men create things, but they do not create; they can only use what is already available to them.
5. God made everything and sustains everything.
  - a. We are told He made everything through His Son." (**John 1:3**;

**Hebrews 1:2)**

b. He sustains everything by the word of His mouth (**Hebrews 1:3; 2 Peter 3:5-7**)

## **II. GOD IS SOVEREIGN.**

A. Definition of Sovereign. Used 100 times in Scripture.

1. Independent of and unlimited by others, possessing or entitled to original authority or jurisdiction.
2. One possessing supreme power, authenticity, absolute, superior to all others. "For I know the Lord is great. And our Lord..." (**Psalm 135:5-6; 1 Corinthians 5:8**)
3. God has the sole right to make the rules controlling the things He made.

B. God is the omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent One.

1. Omnipotent – all powerful (**Psalm 103:19; 1 Chronicles 29:10-11; Acts 4:24**)
2. Omnipresent – God being a Spirit is everywhere at all times. (**John 4:24**)
  - a. Although the word omnipresent is not used in Scripture in any form, it is presupposed, sometimes formulated and is present throughout.
  - b. (**Psalm 139:7-12**)
3. Omniscient – the state of having total knowledge, knowing everything. Having all discernment, insight, understanding, and wisdom.
  - a. Since God created all things visible and invisible, and controls all things (**Colossians 1:16**), He must have all knowledge.
    1. He knew us in the womb. (**Psalm 139:1-3, 15-16**)
    2. He knows the minutest details of this world. (**Matthew 10:29-30**)
    3. He knows our thoughts even before we speak them. (**Psalm 139:4**)
  - b. God exists outside of time meaning His knowledge is also timeless. He knows the past, the present, and the future. He knows everything that will occur in the history of the world until the end of time **Psalm 33:13- 14; Hebrews 4:13**)
4. If He is not everywhere, and He doesn't know everything, He is not all powerful.

C. If God is all powerful, why does evil exist?

1. Theodicy – a branch of Philosophy dealing with the existence of evil in light of God's existence. How do we account for evil if a holy and righteous creator God exist?
2. Evil doesn't really exist. It only exists in the absence of goodness.
3. God created a perfect world with natural laws. (**Genesis 1:31**) He created mankind with free will; the ability to choose good or evil. Adam and Eve chose evil when they rejected good. We did not inherit their sin, but we did inherit the consequences. The fall affected not only we carnal beings, but also, the earth on which we live. (**Romans 8:18-21**) If God eliminated all evil, He would have to remove free will, which He is unwilling to do.
4. The Bible teaches us three truths: evil does not come from God; God gives us power over evil: all evil will be ultimately banished
5. When I don't take time to reflect on who God is, He can become too small to help me, and I can decide to try and handle everything myself, and then blame God later for all of the bad things that happen.
  - a. *I Did It My Way* made famous by Frank Sinatra and more famous by Elvis: "For what is a man? What has he got? If not himself, he has naught to say the things he truly feels and not the words of one who kneels. The record shows I took the blows and did it my way."

- b. *Invictus* a poem by William Earnest Henley, an avowed atheist: "It matters not how strait the gate, how charged with punishments the scroll. I am the master of my fate. I am the captain of my soul."

### III. GOD IS HOLY.

#### A. Definition.

1. The word holy has two interpretations: first, make clean or pure; second set apart.
2. Pertaining to people being holy, it can mean made clean, or one set aside for God's use.
3. Unlike His beings, God is preeminent. (**Revelation 15:4**) He is set apart from everyone and everything else. Where God is concerned, holy means unparalleled in majesty, blameless, faultless, unblemished, morally pure. (**Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8**)

#### B. Believers are called upon to be holy. (**Leviticus 11:45; 1 Peter 1:15-16**)

1. We can be called holy only because God has made us holy through Christ and set us apart for His use.
2. Created in God's spiritual image, we can share some of His attributes such as love, mercy, forgiveness, but we cannot share Omnipotence, Omniscience, or Omnipresence, nor can we share His holiness.
3. Holiness is not possessed as part of our nature. We can only be holy in relationship to Christ. (**2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 8:1-2**)

### IV. GOD IS LOVE

#### A. The meaning of God's love.

1. Strong affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties, to cherish. Fatherly concern for others. God's concern for humankind.
2. God is love. Love is not just a characteristic of God. Love is His very nature. (**1 John 4:8**)
3. Because of God's love, we are called upon to love others. (**1 John 4:7- 11**)

#### B. God's love is Personal. Proven, Perfecting and Preserving.

1. Augustine wrote, "He loves all of us as if there was only one of us."
2. His love is proven because He loved us enough to give His very best for us. (**John 3:16**) The word for love here is Agape, the highest form of love.
3. His perfecting love is demonstrated in His mercy towards us. It is also true that His love is perfected in His being just and is demonstrated in not allowing sin to go unpunished. While these two things may appear to be completely opposite and incompatible, they are not. He demonstrated His justice and His love in the cross of Christ.
4. Paul wrote, "{Christ Jesus} whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed to demonstrate His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus." (**Romans 3:25-26**)
5. His love is preserving in that He not only saved us, but He also preserves us.
  - a. "Preserveme, O God, for in You I put my trust; O my soul, you have said to the Lord, You are my Lord, my goodness is nothing apart from You." (**Psalms 16:1-2**)
  - b. "And God will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom." (**2 Timothy 4:18**)

- c. "The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptation and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment." (**2 Peter 2:9**)

## **CONCLUSION:**

- A. Considering who God is, it is reasonable to conclude that He would expect some kind of response from us. Our response manifest itself in three ways: faith (**Hebrews 11:6**); love (**Luke 10:27**); obedience (**Hebrews 5:9**). It can be summarized with one sentence "Faith working through love." (**Galatians 5:6**)
- B. It is also reasonable to believe that God will call us into account.
1. Since He loves us and has given us a book to guide us, it is reasonable to conclude that He expects us to give an account of the way we have handled His word, and our blessings, opportunities, and challenges. (**John 12:48**)
  2. The concept of a final judgment is reasonable. (**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**)