



God the Father Almighty

A SUMMER SERMON SERIES ON THE NICENE CREED

Psalm 121 1 John 3:1-11 Matthew 6:25-34

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Pastor Dave Bolte

The very first thing that the Nicene Creed confesses is that God is our Father. Immediately, the Creed puts you in a relationship with the one, true, and only God. We do **not** know God as an angry judge, a distant deity, a lifeless idol, a sappy boyfriend, or some kind of a fickle superhero. We know **one God**; and *He is Father*. He is loving, kind, compassionate, and generous with you¹.

We believe in *one God*²,
THE FATHER ALMIGHTY

God as our **Father** is a pure gospel image³. It is God who has revealed Himself as our Father in Heaven, and He has made us His Children. We have not earned the status or achieved the right of *Children of God*. This is pure grace; it is by faith, a gift, by the power of the Holy Spirit at work through His Word.

¹ If your earthly father was a good man who loved you and cared for you, then this Gospel image of God the Father is precious to you and easy to understand. If your earthly father failed you or hurt you, then think of what a perfect father would have been like --- and multiply that by a thousand --- and you will start to understand this gospel image of God the Father!

² In no way whatsoever does this minimize nor neglect the other two Persons of the Holy Trinity. The Nicene Creed will go on to confess the oneness and unity of God with the words "One Lord Jesus Christ," and "the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life." It was during the Nicene Creed era that the wording we still use for the Holy Trinity was developed: "we believe in One God in Three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." The intent of this sermon is to focus on God the Father Almighty.

³ It should not surprise us that the sinful world has turned even this upside down. Fathers, Mothers, Marriage, and Family are derided in vile ways in our culture; men and women are thought to be interchangeable in all things; and even gender is denied. All of this rebellion, and the immorality that inevitably follows it, is NOT FROM GOD. God declares the vocations of "Fathers, Mothers, Marriage, and Family," along with the two created genders of male and female, as very good (Gen 1:31).

By confessing *God as our Father*, our attention immediately is drawn to the **Father's Son, Jesus**. The essence of the Gospel is that *God the Father* so loved the world, that He sent **His Only Begotten Son**⁴ into the world so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. *God the Father's* love for you is described as *lavish and immense*. *God the Father's* love is seen most clearly in His sending **His Son** to die on a cross to restore your relationship with Him. It is the **Son of God** that brings you to *God the Father!*

This is the Gospel! When you hear this gospel good news, the Holy Spirit creates faith so that you know that it's true and that you are included. Through faith in Christ, you are now a *child of God*; you belong to *God the Father* and live in His family!

Behold! What kind of love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are! 1 John 3:1

Faith in Christ gives you a new status: you are His child, He is your Father, and you live in His Family. In Holy Baptism, God gave you His Name as He baptized you in *the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*.

As your Father in Heaven, God makes many promises to you. In Psalm 121, all of those promises are summarized with the word "watch."

The Lord will keep you from all harm— He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Psalm 121:7-8

Six times in eight verses God promises to *watch over your life* in Psalm 121⁵. The word "watch" includes the idea of tending to something very carefully. God the Father tends to you and your needs very carefully.

⇒ *He knows your name and cares about the details of your life.*

⁴ This special term "only begotten" means Jesus has a Sonship that is **unique** (Only); and Begotten indicates that Jesus and the Father are of the **same substance**, the same essential Being. <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/1-john-4/#tab clarified/edited>

⁵ I encourage you to memorize Psalm 121 in this regard. Its only 8 verses, but in those 8 verses, the Lord promises 6 times to "watch over / keep" your life!! Psalm 121 is well worth the time to memorize! If you want to see Psalm 121 formatted to show its uniqueness, send me an email and I will send it to you.

- ⇒ Your Father in Heaven provides your Daily Bread, that is, everything you need to support your body and life.
- ⇒ *He defends and protects you from the Devil and his depraved demons*
- ⇒ He promises to make everything work for good in your life
- ⇒ *He promises to hear, listen and answer your prayers*
- ⇒ He guides and directs every step you take
- ⇒ *He comforts you when you mourn*
- ⇒ He strengthens you when you are weak
- ⇒ *He gives you His Holy Spirit*
- ⇒ He empowers you to live a holy and Godly life
- ⇒ *He assures you of His love, acceptance, and the forgiveness of your sins*

God the Father is your refuge and strength, an ever present help in times of trouble. He knows you and cares about you. He is involved in your life as an attentive Father. **Your Father is God, and He is Almighty!**

Through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, you have access to God the Father in Heaven. When Jesus died on the cross, He opened up the way to the Father for you. He did this by removing your sin and its guilt and taking both upon Himself. He removed them from you and gave you His own righteousness. You are now tenderly invited to believe that God is your true Father, and that you are His true child, so that you may ask Him with all boldness and confidence, as children ask their dear fathers⁶.

Few people have access to **God the Father Almighty** because they reject His Son Jesus. **BUT NOT YOU.** By trusting in Christ you now have access to **God the Father Almighty** and a boldness and confidence to speak to Him. And so you take advantage of that access; and you pray. You pray for yourself, your family, your friends, your coworkers, your church, your country, your work ... a part of your vocation as a Child of God is to boldly approach God the Father Almighty and talk to Him as children normally talk to their fathers.

⁶ Hopefully that sentence sounds familiar: it's a paraphrase of the "Introduction to the Lord's Prayer" from Martin Luther's Small Catechism.

Because God is your Father through faith in His Son Jesus, you get the family inheritance. God the Father's "Last Will and NEW Testament" is that you get the gifts of forgiveness of sins and eternal life. God the Son died and you get an inheritance.

These gifts are present realities in your life; they've already been given to you. You live in a state of forgiveness; your status is a forgiven child of God. And you live each day in hope: confident assurance of the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting. Because Jesus rose from the dead you too will rise from the dead. This is the Father's will for you; this is your inheritance in His family. At the split second of your death, you will be in His Heavenly Kingdom. Eternal and resurrected life are gifts from God the Father Almighty through His Son Jesus Christ.

Until that happens, we live in His Family, bearing His Name in our daily lives. Our lives are marked by love: loving God and serving our neighbor. Love for other people is the chief sign that you know God the Father Almighty.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 1 John 4:7-8

Love for other people is the chief sign that you know God the Father Almighty. You learn to love others from the Father's love for you.

It is not a worldly kind of love; it is a Gospel kind of love. This kind of love is patient and kind towards others. This kind of love serves and helps others as God has served and helped you. This kind of love gets involved in serving others – it is busy and active. Love for others is self-sacrificing; it is getting involved for good in people's lives. Love for other people is the chief sign that you know God the Father Almighty.

For 1,700 years, the Holy Christian Church has confessed the Nicene Creed --- and by the power of the Holy Spirit and though faith in Christ the Son, *we continue to do so today!*

We believe, teach and confess
one God, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY

Amen!

God the Father in Heaven,
in Jesus' name, and by the power of the
Holy Spirit,
we bring our prayers to you today.
We praise and thank you for your lavish
love and faithful care in our lives.
Help us to live as your dear children in
this evil and corrupt world.
Give us a clear confession of Jesus our
Savior so that others may hear and
believe in Him.
Empower us to do good and to love our
neighbor as Jesus has loved us.
We rejoice that we are your children and
ask that you keep us ever mindful of that
as we live each day under your care.
Amen!

Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from?

² My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber;

⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The Lord watches over you— the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ the sun will not harm you by day nor the moon by night.

⁷ The Lord will keep you from all harm -- he will watch over your life;

⁸ the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

1 John 3:1-11

3 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

4 Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.

5 But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.

6 No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

7 Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

8 The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.

10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

11 For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.

Matthew 6:25-34

Jesus said, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? 28 “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.