Fellowship with the Trinity (2)

The Father

**Our heavenly Father wants to have fellowship with us.**

**1. Why do we call Him Father?**

A. He is the *eternal* Father of the eternal Son

2 Corinthians 1:3; Ephesians 1:3; John 5:26

B. He is the *pattern* for all earthly fathers

Ephesians 3:14-15

C. He is the Father of the *saved*

By *new birth* (John 1:12-13)

By *adoption* (Galatians 4:4-7)

**2. What does the Father do?**

He initiates every work of God.

A. *Creation & providence*

1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 1:11

B. *Redemption & predestination*

Isaiah 42:1, 6-7; Ephesians 1:3-6

C. Fatherly *care* & painful *calamities*

Matthew 6:25-34; James 1:17-18; Isaiah 45:6-7; Lamentations 3:37-38

**3. How can we fellowship our Father?**

A. We cry out to Him in *prayer*

B. We trust in His fatherly *care*

**For Personal Reflection or Family Discussion**

1. How is your relationship with your natural father like or unlike your relationship with your heavenly Father? If you are a father (or may be one in the future), how can you imitate God’s fatherhood in your relationship with your children?

2. Do live more under the light of your Father’s smile or under the frown of your Father’s disapproval?

Does a normal child in a good home spend more time worrying about being clobbered than he does enjoying his parents?

3. How can you develop a relationship with your heavenly Father that is warm, personal, affectionate, and trusting?

**Note regarding the Trinity**

The one God eternally exists as three persons. We do not worship three gods, nor are Father, Son, and Spirit merely different names for one divine person. The Father, Son, and Spirit are distinct persons who interact with each other, yet they remain one God. God speaks of Himself both as “I” and as “We.” Each person possesses the whole divine essence (the God-stuff). God’s essence is neither matter nor energy, since He created both. He is an infinite and eternal spirit.