

God Our Father Luke 15:17-24

"Our Father Which Art In Heaven"

Luke 11:1-4

Gives emphasis to the Fatherhood of God

"God Almighty" and "Jehovah" express power and might, "Father" expresses His closeness to us
Consider three characteristics of God our "Father"

His love, His mercy, and His holiness.

His Love

Love cannot be separated from the personality of God. - **1John 4:8**

Ardent affection which one holds for another & reaches its highest form in divine love. - **Luke 15:20**

Read God is merciful & just, but never told He is mercy or justice.

His love is so great that His actions are motivated by this characteristic. - **John 3:16**

Other attributes of God, such as His mercy, have their basis in love.

God's love is always presented from the basis of intelligence.

Sometimes, we are moved by blind passion or silly infatuation.

God's infinite wisdom always governs His love, and therefore always works for our best interests.

The objects of God's love are many - **John 15:9**

God's love also extends to those who are wholly unworthy of His benevolence. - **John 3:16**

God loves sinners who by actions might be thought to have alienated His affections. - **Romans 5:7-8**

Truly, such love cannot be measured in human terms. - **John 16:27**

God's love is manifested to us in many ways. - **1John 4:9-10; 1John 3:1**

Still another expression of divine love is that of repeated forgiveness. - **1John 1:9**

Each time we with penitent heart ask forgiveness, assured God will grant it.

God's providential care for saints results from divine love. - **Romans 8:28; Matthew 6:33; Hebrews 12:6**

Like the father welcoming home his wayward son, God's love is shown in His promise of an eternal home as a reward for faithful service. - **1Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1John 4:19; 1John 4:11; John 14:15**

His Mercy

Already suggested, God's love is basis of His mercy - **John 3:16**

It was His love for men that caused Him to extend His mercy.

Mercy of God is disposition of His nature which leads Him to help us when in misery and to pardon us when we offend Him. - **Luke 15:22-24**

Mercy & grace close in meaning, grace implying unmerited favor.

God extends His grace to us because He is all merciful. - **Ephesians 2:4-7**

Greatest expression of mercy found in offering His Son for our sins.

Even as He answers prayers when offend Him, and forgives freely, receiving His mercy. - **2Peter 3:9**

Of course, God's mercy does not contradict His justice

His Holiness

Holiness of God is characteristic of His being which takes pleasure in everything pure and holy, and hates everything which is morally evil. - **Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8**

As God is unlimited in other ways, He is unlimited in His goodness

Since nothing in His being is evil or sanctions evil, impossible for Him to be impure as this would be contrary to His divine nature. - **James 1:13**

The holiness of God is also the basis of His abhorrence of evil - **Habakkuk 1:13; Psalm 5:5**

What is a small sin to man is a great sin to God

Black spot on white board more noticeable than black spot on a board already dark and dirty

Mud looks worse on children dressed for picture, than on children playing in the yard

God hates sin with hatred man, already polluted with it, can hardly understand or appreciate.

More free self from shackles of sin, more we abhor its presence

Since God is completely holy, His hatred of evil is greatest of all.

God's hatred of sin shown, destructive flood; burning Sodom & Gomorrah; final destruction by fire

All of this, because of His perfect holiness

The holiness of God should cause us to praise Him - **Psalm 99:5; Luke 11:2; 1Peter 1:14-16; 2Peter 1:2-4**

Then may be called "saints" for have taken into our lives the holy nature from God. - **Luke 15:32**

Loving, Merciful, Holy

Because God is loving, merciful and holy, He is truly a father to us

He cares for our material and spiritual needs

Answers our prayers, always in accordance with what's best for us

When we are in trouble, we may go to Him for comfort and strength

Expects obedience of us & sometimes chastises for our own good.

We must honor Him in godly living and worship, as a faithful child honors his parents

Faithful children shall receive Father's inheritance and shall hear the king say - **Matthew 25:34**

Jim Sasser