

THE CREED

THE FIRST ARTICLE (PART 3)

DEVOTION

I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.

What does this mean? All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him. (Psalm 103:11–13)

FOR SHARING

1. A guest at a reception told President Lincoln that people were saying the welfare of the nation depended on God and Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln replied, “They are half right.” In what ways do people rely on human ability in difficult circumstances?
2. “All this,” Luther notes, God does out of “fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me.” How do his words exclude all boasting?
3. Share an example of a benevolent father.
4. We are precious to God, not because of what we are, but because of who God is—the Savior God in Christ. Describe the perfect fatherhood of God.
5. How is witnessing to God’s love in Christ a response of thanks and praise?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your goodness and mercy, freely given to me in the Lord Jesus. Help me that I may serve You with a grateful and obedient heart. In Jesus’ name. Amen.