

## **Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 26–Your Father’s Work; Your Faithful Duty**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: What kind of father do you have? Does he work hard? Does he teach you God’s Word? Does he talk to you? Does he play games with you? Does he love your mother? Does he joke with you? Isn’t it great to have a Dad like that?

Maybe you are on the other side. Your Dad isn’t that caring, or providing, or taking time with you, or play games, or make jokes, or divorced your Mom. You wish he were, but he isn’t that way.

Maybe your Dad, like mine, is dead, and you miss him. You wished he were here.

But even if your Dad were good or no so good – one thing you know for sure: All dads will all die and they won’t be able to care for you and love you.

But the Bible says you do have a wonderful Father – who is always good and always around. So even if your father isn’t great, hear about your heavenly Father! And even if your Dad is great, hear of a better and more reliable Father...one you need more...and one who never leaves you!

Our headings are:

**Your Father’s Work**

**Your Faithful Duty**

Our goals are: **That hearing of the work of God that you will respond in moving closer to him, obeying him with fortitude, and boasting about him to the world.**

**26 Q. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE WHEN YOU SAY: “I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER, ALMIGHTY, MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH”?**

A. That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing **created heaven and earth and everything** in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is **my God and Father because of Christ** his Son. I **trust him so much** that I **do not doubt** he will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and he will **turn to my good whatever adversity he sends** me in this sad world. **He is able to do this** because he is almighty God; he desires to do this because he is a **faithful Father**.

**Your Father’s Work**

**1. Your heavenly Father determined to create and did create heaven and earth and everything in them.**

**Exodus 20: 11** For in **six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth**, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day...

Psalm 33: 6 By the **word of the LORD the heavens were made**, And all the host of them by the **breath of His mouth**.

God was intimately involved in creation and you see that in the details of how he personally created Adam and you!

Isaiah 44: 24 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, And **He who formed you from the womb**: "I am the LORD, who makes all things, Who **stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth** by Myself;

So, reject the incredible claims—or un-credible claims-of monkeys being your mother and that your cousin crawled out from primordial slime. We have evidence of God's creation.

Here is another problem for evolutionists: Evolutionists are unscientific – going back to the point of singularity – where nothing could happen, but then they say something did happen. Yahweh created you ex nihilo.

Everyone who deeply studies God's creation, especially the human body and soul, lives in awe!

Because you were created, you have an invisible moral compass! This is why you feel guilt when you sin.

Evolutionists and atheists assume the existence of evil and good – non-tangible things – and are concerned about it, but they have no mechanism for explaining morality!

But if they assume there is morality, they must assume there is a moral law and a moral law giver—God. But since they reject God, they are in a conundrum.

“Survival of the fittest” is nothing but tyranny. This contradicts morality. This was the root of Nazism and the Japanese invasion of Asian countries!

2. Your Father is not only Creator of all things, he is keeper of everything he has created, and he does this by his eternal counsel and providence.

Yes, Yahweh even cares for the small things...

Matthew 10: 29 "Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will.

Matthew 6: 30 "Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

Children, remember this: God especially cares for his children's needs...and gives his angels charge to protect them.

**Knowing and believing that God is Creator will set you free from bondage and fear.**

You don't have to worry when you are sick or dying. You know that if you follow your Creator, **you are in good hands**. The **Allstate insurance company** may have that as their slogan, but only your Father can truly keep you safe – body and soul.

**This is why you want to worship God. He made you and keeps you in his hands. So even though I am jealous when I watched people boast about their father on Father's Day, I have another Father...one who cares for me in all things.**

And even though **your father may not be the best, consider you heavenly Father. Look at how the Psalmist describes some of God's preserving work.**

Psalm 104:10 He sends the springs into the valleys, They flow among the hills. 11 They give drink to every beast of the field; The wild donkeys quench their thirst. 12 By them the birds of the heavens have their home; They sing among the branches. 13 He waters the hills from His upper chambers; The earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works. 14 He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, And vegetation for the service of man, That he may bring forth food from the earth, 15 And wine that makes glad the heart of man, Oil to make his face shine, And bread which strengthens man's heart.

**This is my Father's world and he takes care of it.** He is not subject to time or age. He knows when a **mosquito dies**...and he ordains it. He knows when a **man cries**. He knows when a **child is lonely or hungry**. This is why I worship him!

### **3. Even after your fall in Adam, your heavenly Father restored you to himself through the sacrifice of his Son to meet his justice.**

So you are now God's son through his Son's death on the cross. (This is your re-creation.)

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to **become children of God, to** those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Your salvation was your Father's plan all along...even from before the world was created. His love goes back a long way. And he causes no trouble to his children, like some father's might.

Ephesians 1: 11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, **being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will...**

#### **4. Your Father confirms with you that you are his children through Christ.**

You then have no reason to doubt his love. **He says so in your heart!** And his spiritual DNA in you proves it!

**Romans 8:15** For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Apostle Paul repeated the same sentiment to the church in Galatia.

**Galatians 4:6** And because you are sons, God has **sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"** 7 Therefore **you are no longer a slave but a son**, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

#### **Your Faithful Duty -6 things**

**1. You must trust and believe in your heavenly Father because he is almighty God and able to do what you need.**

**You must not join yourself to other gods, which are no gods at all.** They can't save...but will guarantee a place in hell! Look at how easy it is to trust in men instead of trusting in God. God did a miracle through Paul and Barnabas...and the people were ready to make them God.

**Acts 14: 11** Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" 12 And **Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.** 13 Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes. 14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out 15 and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should **turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth**, the sea, and all things that are in them,

**2. You must trust and believe God is a faithful and will do what he has promised.**

**Genesis 18: 13** And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?' 14 **"Is anything too hard for the LORD?** At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."

Also, Yahweh humbled the Egyptians and destroyed their faith in their idolatrous gods and set Israel free to go and serve him. No one was able to stop him – though Pharaoh tried.

Romans 8: 28 And we know that **all things work together for good to those who love God**, to those who are called according to His purpose.

**So don't treat your husband as your salvation...or your children...or your job...or your education! God is jealous...very jealous. He is named Jealous!**

**3. You must trust and believe your heavenly Father and not doubt he will willingly provide everything you need for your body and soul.**

And he warns you about worrying for things!

Matthew 6: 25 "Therefore I say to you, **do not worry about your life**, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?

**So don't dare worry!** Remember who your Father is...the eternal Father.

**4. You must trust and believe God loves his children...and therefore he will give what is good for you.**

Matthew 7: 9 "Or what man is there among you who, if his son **asks for bread**, will give him **a stone**? 10 "Or if he asks for **a fish**, will he give him **a serpent**? 11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things...

What loving care! (Confidence)

**5. You must trust and believe your Father will do what is best for you in your adversity – protecting you.**

Psalm 55: 22 **Cast your burden on the LORD**, And He **shall sustain you**; He shall **never permit the righteous to be moved**.

**6. Don't be ungrateful; how ungrateful a child would be if he disregarded what God did for him!**

How ungrateful **the French were to God** when they screamed at the time of the Enlightenment: **"No God and no master."** They ignored God's work and flaunted their own selves.

**And what do modern evolutionists do?** They are grope around in darkness for meaning to life and go about selfishly trying to get for themselves, rather than putting the needs of others first. Their goal is **"survival of the fittest."**

**But it is not so for the child of God.** You know in your heart you are God's child...and you will worship the Lord...and you will serve your fellow men!

## **Conclusion:**

When you **consider the greatness of your Father's work of creation and recreation**, and how admirable they are, **you will faithfully worship him** – Jehovah God.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. To recognize the fullness of your Father's work, you need faith – which is a gift of God.**

Without faith in Jesus, you will see God as nothing, so your worship will be nothing but hollow sounds that do not pierce the clouds and go to heaven.

**2. Faith comes by reading, studying, and believing the Word of God.** So be good students of the Word.

**3. And tell this message to the world.** Let them hear of the work of your Father, Jehovah God.

**4. And may I suggest you take some time from your busy schedules and reflect on God's creation.** Yes, think about your wretched sinfulness and how you were saved by grace through Jesus (you can't worship without coming through Christ's sacrifice), but also think about God's rolling mountains, flowing streams, and the tulips that will be here soon! God is good and God is great. Praise him for his excellent goodness and greatness. Why do this? **Admiration of God's creation adds to the glory of your worship.**

As a non-Christian, you have not been able to see the greatness of God's work because you lack faith. But maybe God is giving faith to you right now. If you sense God speaking to your heart now, why not surrender to him? He will give you everything that is good for your body and soul forever.