



Who created God?

I've been asked this question at least three times in the past couple of months - each time by people who had no relationship with the other folks who asked the question. It made me wonder if someone had published a "Top Ten Questions to Ask Pastors" list and this was at the top. Whatever the case, it was pretty obvious that this is a question God wanted me to address in this newsletter column.

One person who asked this question was my "little brother" Kevin. (Long ago I was part of the Big Brothers program in the Twin Cities.) Kevin sent me a text and said that his son-in-law asked him who created God. Kevin said that he told his son-in-law that the answer is in the Bible, and asked if he needed a Bible.

I was impressed with Kevin's answer. He showed a lot of wisdom. I've said many times that we can look at the Bible as "God's Diary." In it he reveals who He is, what He is like, what He likes, His hopes and dreams, and what He thinks about us. When we dig into His "diary" we find that God truly does reveal the answers to the questions we have about Him and about life.

Here's what God says in His Word....

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom. Isaiah 40:28

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90:2

In other words, God has always existed. He is the Creator of all that exists and He alone is the 'Un-created.'

Some have compared this question to questions like, "To whom is the bachelor married?" Or "What does the color blue smell like?" Just as bachelors by definition are not married, and colors by definition have no smell, so too, God by definition, has no beginning. As bachelors fit into the "unmarried" category and blue fits in the "having no smell" category, God fits into the "uncreated" category, so to ask who created an 'uncreated' being would be comparable to asking what the color blue smells like.

Well, that's kind of the "logical" answer. More logic leads us to conclude that, since God created 'time,' He cannot be subject to the constraints of time. Even though we can apply some logic to the answer. It's all still a bit "mind-boggling" since we exist in 'time' and everything we've experienced in life has a beginning and an end. (So, eternity - a life that never ends - is also pretty mind-boggling, but that's a topic for another time.)

Aside from our logical explanations, the fact that God has always existed is really not an easy concept for us to understand. In fact, I'm going to say that *as God said* in the Isaiah 40 passage above, it is one of the things about Him that we really cannot understand or "fathom."

But when you think about it, it really does make sense that we cannot 'wrap our minds around' this idea that God has always existed. I mean, He is God and we are not. That simple fact means that there are

things about Him that we as human beings are not ever going to understand.

As I told Kevin, "It's like this:. You are sitting there at your table pounding out a text message. Your dog is sitting there watching you do it. He has no idea what you are really doing. He can watch you texting for the rest of his life and will never, ever be able to understand what you are doing... simply because he's a dog and not a human. But he doesn't need to understand what you are doing when you are texting. He trusts that you know what you are doing and that is enough for him, because he knows he can trust you to give him the things he does understand. Food, shelter, exercise."

It's the same with us and God. No matter how long we live there will be things we will never understand about God, simply because He's God and we are not. But the fact that we can't understand everything about Him doesn't mean we can't trust Him. We may not know why He does some things the way He does them, but because He's God, we know that *He* knows why. And that's enough for us.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net