

From Acts (1:11), there is a question:

“Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky?”

In Matthew’s Gospel (Mt.28:18-20) there is a mandate:

“Then Jesus ... said, ... Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, ... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

This is why we need to really define **who** we are; **what** we study and believe in; **where** God will direct us to promote Himself; **when** we will educate about Him; **why** we started in the first place; and **how** we may accomplish God’s plan for us.

We begin with ‘**Who**’ truly is our Creator, the Trinity we worship?

Often forgotten and overwhelmed by the demands and problems of life, ‘**What**’ does it mean to be a “Child of God”? Obviously, each of us may have a definition, but find it difficult to apply it to our lives each day. Let me share with you what I try to consider and often overlook daily.

I try to picture a young child holding the hand of a parent. The life of the child is in the caring hands of the parent. This child looks to the parent for love, support, nourishment, protection, direction, and forgiveness. Does this remind us that God is the parent of us all? Do we hold His hand?

God gave us free will. However, there are many times ‘**When**’, during our times of stress and hardship, we may feel that God has abandoned us. We, in our human nature, believe we can control our direction of life. We depend on our own past experiences and examples or, by following popular methods found in today’s culture, to protect and provide for ourselves and our families. We often forget to depend on God as part of our personal choices. His teachings reveal the true guidance needed for our decisions during this, our personal journey of life.

These are times and places **Where** we are challenged to trust in God, and to renew our baptismal commitment to be a “Child of God”. We must always attempt to remove ourselves from the negative and the controversy of daily news and human opinions. We continue to believe people who do not follow Christ and so bring Judgement on us all. We are getting just a small taste of what happens to a world that rejects her Creator.

Why? We have a need to take the time to pray that each of us will be open to the sustaining Mercy and Grace of God Our Father. Our prayers need to be accompanied with repentance. So far, many prayers have been stated, like the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector; “I pray for those who are affected by this pandemic, but please save Me from it.”

It would certainly please God if we stopped being the apathetic majority, coddling every heresy and false god on the planet. There are many ways **How** this may be accomplished! One is to let us be supportive of one another in our Catholic Church faith community and in our own municipality. A “Child of God” is blessed seeking to serve God and neighbor.

Each day in prayer, encourage yourself and others to make disciples for Christ. Always seek: **who** we are; **what** we study and believe in; **where** God will direct us to promote Himself; **when** we will educate about Him; **why** we started in the first place; and **how** we may accomplish God’s plan for us.

Our baptismal promise brings fulfillment when we honor the Two Greatest Commandments: (Matthew 22:35–40, Mark 12:28–34, and Luke 10:27a)

- "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind" - "You shall love your neighbor as yourself"

Always remember to Hold God’s Hand for Love, Support, Nourishment, Protection, Direction, and Forgiveness.