

How Old Is God?

I'm enjoying our questions from fifth graders and this week, I get to tackle this one: How old is God?

That's a great question. I would imagine that if we had a birth-day cake for God, it would have enough candles to set off some major fire alarms!

I asked this question on Facebook this week to see what some of my friends would say in response. One pastor wrote, "God created the heavens and the earth, so I'd say God's older than dirt." Others used such words as age-less, eternal and as old as love. Musician Chris Tomlin sings a song called "Everlasting God" and those lyrics say that God is forever and everlasting. Many people point to eternal and infinite as the way of describing God. Yet, that doesn't seem like a real answer to the question of God's age, does it?

Grace, who just turned five in January, likes to ask me how old I am. I'll start with her age and she'll say, "Five." Then I'll give her my age. Sometimes I'll ask her what that means to her and she, at this point, can't fully comprehend what those numbers mean. She'll just say, "Daddy, you're old!"

Maybe that's the way we have to think about it with God. Age and years are the way we think of de-scribing how old we are. What if God didn't have an age? What if God just simply has always been, always is and always will be? God would be incredibly old in a way that is completely beyond our abilities to understand it and, at the same time, so "young" that God meets us and loves us where we are.

I really like Psalm 90:2 and I think it gives us a great image of God's age. It reads, "Before the mountains were born, before you birthed the earth and the inhabited world— from forever in the past to forever in the future, you are God." I love that description of God as forever in the past and forever in the future.

So, how old is God then? I'm not sure, but I wonder if Wal-Mart sells a "forever" candle for the birthday cake.

Dean