
God The Father

Various Passages

This morning we are going to do the first of two more doctrinal studies. The last lesson was "How We Got Our Bible." This morning we are going to look at the doctrine of God the Father. Next week we will examine the doctrine of The Holy Trinity.

It goes without saying these studies are simply introductions to the subjects. I could spend extended amounts of time on each of these topics, but for various reasons have chosen not to do so here. If you feel so moved I would highly recommend that you explore these subjects at greater depth on your own.

I should also note this material has been adapted using the outline from the Through the Bible in One Year¹ and material taken from Willmington's Guide to the Bible.²

I. Introduction: Let me start by quoting from the Heidelberg Catechism:

"Question 26. What believest thou when thou sayest, "I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth"?"

Answer. That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (who of nothing made heaven and earth, with all that is in them; who likewise upholds and governs the same by his eternal counsel and providence) is for the sake of Christ his Son, my God and my Father; on whom I rely so entirely, that I have no doubt, but he will provide me with all things necessary for soul and body: and further, that he will make whatever evils he sends upon me, in this valley of tears turn out to my advantage; for he is able to do it, being Almighty God, and willing, being a faithful Father."³

II. Basic Scriptures:

"The name "Father" is not unique to the NT. In the Old Testament God is the Father of Israel and Israel is his son "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son" (Hosea11:1).

"There are occurrences in the Old Testament where God is spoken of as being "thy father" "Is this the way you repay the LORD, O foolish and unwise people? Is he not your Father, your Creator, who made you and formed you?" (Deuteronomy 32:6),

"a father" "As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;" (Psalm 103:13),

"our father" "But you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us or Israel acknowledge us; you, O LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name." ... "Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand" (Isaiah 63:16; 64:8),

¹ Stringfellow, Alan B., ed., Through the Bible in one Year, Vol. 3 Great Truths of the Bible, Copyright © 1981 by Virgil W. Hensley, Inc. Publisher, Tulsa OK, p. 25-29.

² Willmington, Dr. H. L., Willmington's Guide to the Bible, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, IL, p. 636-640.

³ Olevianus and Ursinus, revised by the Synod of Dort, The Heidelberg, Catechism, 1563.

“ my father” *“Have you not just called to me: ‘My Father, my friend from my youth,’” (Jeremiah 3:4, 19),*

“ a father to Israel” *“They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble, because I am Israel’s father, and Ephraim is my firstborn son” (Jeremiah 31:9),*

“ a father” and “one father” *““A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?” says the LORD Almighty. “It is you, O priests, who show contempt for my name. “But you ask, ‘How have we shown contempt for your name?’” ... “Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why do we profane the covenant of our fathers by breaking faith with one another?” (Malachi 1:6; 2:10).*

“ But the disclosure of God the Father through Jesus is an advance on Old Testament usage; Jesus employs the intimate Aramaic form Abba (the childlike term for “father”) in contrast to general filial terminology. The frequent allusions to the divine fatherhood are so noteworthy as to be normative. Through Jesus, Christians are led into a new, intimate relationship with God as their heavenly Father

“ This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,” (Matthew 6:9);

“ For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”” (Romans 8:15);

“ Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.”” (Galatians 4:6).⁴

III. The Nucleus of this Truth:

“ The existence of God is within Himself. He is Self-existent. He caused us to be, but nothing caused Him to be. He always was and ever shall be God.” ...

“ God the Father is the creator of man, ...⁵ “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live” (Acts 17:24-26).

“ but only the Father of those who have accepted his Son.”⁶ “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him” (1 John 3:1).

We, who are Christians, call Him Father.” *“For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”” (Romans 8:15).*

Nevertheless, all human beings are God’s creation even though, created in his image. But only those who have accepted Christ as savior can call Him Father. Scripture does not teach

⁴ Mikolaski, Samuel J., *The Theology of the New Testament, The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*, Zondervan [Interactive](#) Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1990, Electronic text hypertexted and prepared by Oak-Tree Software, Inc.

⁵ Stringfellow, P. 25.

⁶ Ibid.

the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of Christ. It is the new birth that is the basis for being the children of the Father. *“... but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir” (Galatians 4:7).*

IV. The Nucleus of this Truth:

A. The Names of God Having Meaning.

1. The Names of God Reveal His Character.

a. *“Elohim”—God’s official title—revealing He is God. **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).** “Elohim is a plural noun. In English, plural is two or more. In Hebrew, plural is three or more: singular, meaning one, dual, equaling two; plural, meaning three or more. So, in Genesis 1:1 the Trinity was present—three or more.*

b. *“El” is the singular form of Elohim. You find it in the names of the Bible such as: “Beth el” meaning “house of God” **“From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD” (Genesis 12:8).***

*“Daniel el” meaning “God is my judge” **“Among these were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah” (Daniel 1:6).***

*“El i jah” meaning “my God is Yahweh” **“Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead ...” (1 Kings 17:1).***

c. *“Yahweh” —the personal name of God. The name means “Redeemer” and is always used in connection with redemption and/or deliverance by God. “Yahweh” told Moses to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt—to “deliver” them from bondage. God told Moses to tell the people, **“Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” (Exodus 3:13-14).***

*“Yahweh” is the eternal “I AM.” In Exodus 20:2 and many other places you read, **“I am the Lord your God—.”** It means **“I am Yahweh you God.”** There is only one Yahweh (Deuteronomy 6:4). Using the correct Hebrew words, the passage reads: “Hear, O Israel, Yahweh, our Elohim (three or more) is one Yahweh.”*

d. *“Adonai” means “Master” or “Lord.” It is used in the Old Testament for both deity and man. It is found the first time in Genesis 15.2. **“But Abram said, “O Sovereign LORD,”**”⁷*

2. Compound Names Reveal God.

(We would call these “double names.” The compound names can be found using “El” or “Yahweh.” We list only a few.)

a. *“El Shaddai”—“Almighty God” **“When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless” (Genesis 17:1).***

b. *“El Olam”—“Everlasting God” **“Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there he called upon the name of the LORD, the Eternal God.” (Genesis 21:33).***

⁷ Ibid., p. 25-26.

- c. *“Yahweh Elohim”—“Lord God” “And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,”” (Exodus 34:6).*
- d. *“Yahweh-jireh”—“the Lord will provide” “So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”” (Genesis 22:14).*
- e. *“Yahweh-shalom”—“the Lord our peace” “So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it The LORD is Peace. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites” (Judges 6:24).*
- f. *“Yahweh-shammah”—“the Lord is there”⁸ “The distance all around will be 18,000 cubits. “And the name of the city from that time on will be: THE LORD IS THERE.”” (Ezekiel 48:35).*

B. The Nature of God.

1. God is a Spirit.

- a. *“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).*
- b. *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation” (Colossians 1:15).*
- c. As John noted: *“No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known” (John 1:18).*

2. God is Light.

- a. *“This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5).*
- b. *“The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp” (Revelation 21:23).*

3. God is Love.

- a. *“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love” (1 John 4:8).*
- b. *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).*
- c. *“because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son” (Hebrews 12:6).*

4. God is a Person.

- *He not only loves (Scriptures already noted.)*
- *He Grieves “The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain” (Genesis 6:6).*
- *He hates “There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes,*

⁸ Ibid., p. 26.

feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers” (Proverbs 6:16-19).

- *He provides “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!” (Matthew 7:7-11).*
- *He creates “Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:6-7).*

This indicates He is a Person with a personality. He created love. He also gave us free will to choose. We are made in His image and likeness.⁹

This means that we have the same characteristics as God, such as personhood, the ability to love and hate. But, all of these characteristics were damaged in the fall.

C. The Attributes of God.

1. God is Omnipotent.

“The Latin word “omni” means “all.” The word Omnipotent means “all powerful.” He is the Almighty God” “Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns” (Revelation 19:6).

- a. God has power over men and nations “So the Lord said to Solomon, “Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates”” (1 Kings 11:11).*
- b. God has power over all nature. “The earth, from which food comes, is transformed below as by fire; sapphires come from its rocks, and its dust contains nuggets of gold.” ... “When he established the force of the wind and measured out the waters, when he made a decree for the rain and a path for the thunderstorm” (Job 28:5-6, 25-26).*
- c. God has power over angels “Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word” (Psalm 103:20).*
- d. God has power over Satan and death¹⁰ “The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.” Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.” “The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life.”” (Job 1:12; 2:6).*

2. God is Omniscient (omni- “all”—science- “knowledge”).

The word means “all knowing.” He is perfect in knowledge—He knows everything “Do you know how the clouds hang poised, those wonders of him who is perfect in knowledge?” (Job 37:16).

- a. He knows all about nature “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).*

⁹ Ibid., p. 27.

¹⁰ Ibid., p. 28.

- b. *He knows all about man “And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered” (Matthew 10:30).*
- c. *He knows the past, present and future “that have been known for ages” (Acts 15:18).*

3. God is Omnipresent.

The word means “everywhere present.” God is everywhere present at all times “Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?” declares the LORD. “Do not I fill heaven and earth?” declares the LORD” (Jeremiah 23:24).

- a. *God is everywhere present but He is not in all that takes place “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us” (Acts 17:24-27).*
- b. *He dwells in heaven “... which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,” ... “I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband” (Ephesians 1:20; Revelation 21:2).*
- c. *He is in every believer in the Lord Jesus “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever —the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” ... “When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning” (John 14:16-17; 15:26-27).*

4. God Never Changes (Immutability of God).

Immutability means “unchanging.” He is always God.

- a. *He never changes toward His own “for God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable” (Romans 11:29).*
- b. *He never varies “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows” (James 1:17).*
- c. *He is immutable ¹¹ “Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath” (Hebrews 6:17).*

As I already noted, this just touches on the doctrine of God the Father. This is a subject that we can never exhaust. But, it is one that we should continue to pursue. Our understanding of God is the foundation of our faith. It is also the foundation of the quality of our walk. As we grow in our knowledge of who God is, we grow in both the depth and stability of our faith.

The believers faith is not a leap in the dark, but grounded in the truth of who God is. And therefore it is strengthened to the extent that we pursue our understanding of our Father. And as our faith grows deeper we will be able to continue to hold to the truths:

¹¹ Ibid.

GOD LOVES US!

GOD IS IN CONTROL!

GOD NEVER MAKES MISTAKES!

God The Father

Various Passages

I. Introduction: Let me start by quoting from the Heidelberg Catechism:

“*Question 26. What believest thou when thou sayest, “I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth”?*”

*Answer. That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (who of nothing made heaven and earth, with all that is in them; who likewise upholds and governs the same by his eternal counsel and providence) is for the sake of Christ his Son, my God and my Father; on whom I rely so entirely, that I have no doubt, but he will provide me with all things necessary for soul and body: and further, that he will make whatever evils he sends upon me, in this valley of tears turn out to my advantage; for he is able to do it, being Almighty God, and willing, being a faithful Father.”*¹

II. Basic Scriptures:

“The name “Father” is not unique to the NT. *Hosea 11:1*

God is spoken of as being “your _____” *Deuteronomy 32:6*

a father *Psalms 103:13*

our father *Isaiah 63:16; 64:8*

my father *Jeremiah 3:4, 19*

a father to Israel *Jeremiah 31:9*

a father and one father *Malachi 1:6; 2:10*

The Father in the New Testament

Matthew 6:9; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6

¹ Olevianus and Ursinus, revised by the Synod of Dort, The Heidelberg, Catechism, 1563.

III. The Nucleus of this Truth:

God the Father is the _____ of man *Acts 17:24-26*

but *only the Father* of those who have accepted his Son. *1 John 3:1*

We, who are _____, call Him Father. *Romans 8:15*

All _____ are God's _____. Only those who have _____ Christ as _____ can call Him Father. *Galatians 4:7*

IV. The Nucleus of this Truth:

A. The Names of God Having Meaning.

1. The Names of God Reveal His Character.

- a. “*Elohim*”—*God’s official title—revealing He is God. Genesis 1:1*
- b. “*El*” is the singular form of *Elohim. Genesis 12:8; Daniel 1:6; 1 Kings 17:1*
- c. “*Yahweh*” —*the personal name of God. Exodus 3:13-14; 20:2; Deuteronomy 6:4*
- d. “*Adonai*” means “*Master*” or “*Lord.*” *Genesis 15.2*

2. Compound Names Reveal God.

- a. “*El Shaddai*”—“*Almighty God*” *Genesis 17:1*
- b. “*El Olam*”—“*Everlasting God*” *Genesis 21:33*
- c. “*Yahweh Elohim*”—“*Lord God*” *Exodus 34:6*
- d. “*Yahweh-jireh*”—“*the Lord will provide*” *Genesis 22:14*
- e. “*Yahweh-shalom*”—“*the Lord our peace*” *Judges 6:24*
- f. “*Yahweh-shammah*”—“*the Lord is there*” *Ezekiel 48:35*

B. The Nature of God.

1. **God is a Spirit.**

John 4:24; Colossians 1:15; John 1:18

2. **God is Light.**

1 John 1:5; Revelation 21:23

3. **God is Love.**

1 John 4:8; John 3:16; Hebrews 12:6

4. **God is a Person.**

- *He not only loves (Scriptures already noted.)*

- *He Grieves Genesis 6:6*

- *He hates Proverbs 6:16-19*

- *He provides Matthew 7:7-11*

- *He creates 1 Peter 5:6-7*

C. The Attributes of God.

1. **God is Omnipotent.**

*“The Latin word “omni” means “all.” The word Omnipotent means “all powerful.”
Revelation 19:6*

a. *God has power over ___ and _____ 1 Kings 11:11*

b. *God has power over all _____ Job 28:5-6, 25-26*

c. *God has power over _____ Psalm 103:20*

d. *God has power over _____ and _____ Job 1:12; 2:6*

2. **God is Omniscient (omni- “all”—science- “knowledge”).**

The word means “all knowing.” Job 37:16

- a. He knows all about _____ *Isaiah 40:28*
- b. He knows all about _____ *Matthew 10:30*
- c. He knows the _____, _____ and _____ *Acts 15:18*

3. God is Omnipresent.

The word means “everywhere present.” Jeremiah 23:24

- a. God is _____ present *Acts 17:24-27*
- b. He dwells in _____ *Ephesians 1:20; Revelation 21:2*
- c. He is in every _____ in the _____ *John 14:16-17; 15:26-27*

4. God Never Changes (Immutability of God).

Immutability means “unchanging.”

- a. He never changes toward His _____ *Romans 11:29*
- b. He never _____ *James 1:17*
- c. He is _____ *Hebrews 6:17*

Conclusion: