

God Is My Father

I. Our understanding of God as "Father," is a New Testament revelation.

A. The Hebrew nation called God by many names, the name "Father," was not one of them.

1. God called Israel his firstborn son when delivering them from Egypt.
Ex 4:22 "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD, "Israel is My son, My firstborn."

Deut 32:6 "Do you thus repay the LORD, O foolish and unwise people? Is not He your Father who has bought you? He has made you and established you.
2. They knew that He was a protector (a father) to the helpless.
Ps 68:5 A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, is God in His holy habitation.

Ps 103:13 Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.
3. Prophets tried to lead the nation to repentance, reminding them of their inheritance; they were to be sons to God their father.
Jer 3:4 "Have you not just now called to Me, 'My Father, You are the friend of my youth? "

Jer 3:19 How I would set you among My sons and give you a pleasant land, the most beautiful inheritance of the nations! and I said, 'You shall call Me, My Father , and not turn away from following Me.'

Jer 31:9 For I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is My firstborn."

Mal 1:6 A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor?
4. There were prophetic words of God as father, fulfilled in Jesus and His followers.
Fulfillment in Jesus:
Ps 89:26 "He will cry to Me, 'You are my Father, My God, and the rock of my salvation.'

Isa 9:6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Isa 22:21 And I will clothe him with your tunic and tie your sash securely about him. I will entrust him with your authority, and he will become a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Fulfillment in His followers:
Isa 63:16 For You are our Father, though Abraham does not know us and Israel does not recognize us. You, O LORD, are our Father, Our Redeemer from of old is Your name.

Isa 64:8 But now, O LORD, You are our Father, we are the clay, and You our potter; and all of us are the work of Your hand.

B. Christianity reveals God as Trinity; Father Son and Holy Spirit.

1. Jesus is the only begotten (Son) from the Father.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

2. Jesus is the only one (man) who has seen God and has explained Him.

John 1:15-18 John testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, ' He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'" 16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. 17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father , He has explained Him.

3. The Father loves the world (all people), He sends His Son to redeem us.

John 3:16-19 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 " He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

4. John the Baptist is the first one to reveal God as "Father, Son and Holy Spirit." (John 3:25-36)

John 3:25-26 John's disciples bring to him theological disputes.

25 Therefore there arose a discussion on the part of John's disciples with a Jew about purification. 26 And they came to John and said to him, " Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified, behold, He is baptizing and all are coming to Him."

John 3:25-27 John's disciples complain about Jesus.

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John 3:34-36 John declares that Jesus is the Father's Son, who gives the Holy Spirit.

34 "For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure. 35 " The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. 36 "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

5. The Jews killed Jesus because he called God his own Father.

John 5:18 For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father , making Himself equal with God.

6. Jesus reveals God as Father; himself as God the Son; and (the anointing of God) as God the Spirit. (John 14:8-28)

John 14:8-10 Philip wants to see the Father, as proof that the Father is in Jesus.

8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me?

The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.

John 14:11-15 the works (miracles) of Jesus declares that He is in the Father.

11 "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. 12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father . 13 " Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. 15 " If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

John 14:16-20 Jesus declares that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

16 "I will ask the Father , and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. 18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 " After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. 20 "In that day you will know that I am in My Father , and you in Me, and I in you.

John 14:25-28; 15:26-27 Jesus declares that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

John 14:25-28 "These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. 26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. 27 " Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. 28 " You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

John 15:26-27 "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father , that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father , He will testify about Me, 27 and you will testify also,

7. The teaching of Jesus to pray to God as Father was a new concept for them

Matt 6:9 "Pray, then, in this way:
'Our Father who is in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

C. The Epistles teach us that God initiates us through grace, as we respond through faith.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:23).

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH." (Rom 1:5; 16:25).

D. Further thoughts from James Orr (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia)

To reach the heart of the truth of the Divine Fatherhood it is necessary to begin, not with man, but with the Godhead itself, in whose eternal depths is found the spring of that Fatherly love that reveals itself in time. It is first of all in relation to the eternal Son-before all time-that the meaning of Fatherhood in God is made clear (John 1:18). In "God the

Father" we have a name pointing to that relation which the first Person in the adorable Trinity sustains to "Son" and "Holy Spirit" - also Divine (Matt 28:19). From this eternal fountain-head flow the relations of God as Father (1) to the world by creation; (2) to believers by grace. Man as created was designed by affinity of nature for sonship to God. The realization of this-his true creature-destiny-was frustrated by sin, and can now only be restored by redemption.

Hence, the place of sonship in the gospel, as an unspeakable privilege (1 John 3:1), obtained by grace, through regeneration (John 1:12-13), and adoption (Rom 8:14,19). In this relation of nearness and privilege to the Father in the kingdom of His Son (Col 1:13), believers are "sons of God" in a sense true of no others. It is a relation, not of nature, but of grace. Fatherhood is now the determinative fact in God's relation to them (Eph 3:14 ff).

It is an error, nevertheless, to speak of fatherhood as if the whole character of God was therein sufficiently expressed. God is Father, but equally fundamental is His relation to His world as its Moral Ruler and Judge. From eternity to eternity the holy God must pronounce Himself against sin (Rom 1:18); and His fatherly grace cannot avert judgment where the heart remains hard and impenitent (2:1-9).

II. Relationship Foundations:

A. There are four levels of relationships that we give others in our life. As we seek healthy relationships, it is helpful to look at these four levels.

Acceptance = unconditional love of someone just the way they are.

Affirmation = encouragement and building up a person in their struggles.

Accountability = I allow and invite someone to ask me how I'm doing in an area.

Authority = I give permission to someone to speak to me about anything in my life that they see needs to be adjusted.

B. There are four primary relationships in life:

God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit)

Myself (self-awareness to know what I am thinking and feeling).

Spouse (if married) or possible friend (if unmarried)

Small Group (to whom I am seeking to live in transparency)