

The Doctrine of the Father: What it Means to Have a Heavenly Father

DEFINITION

God is our Father not only in that he is our _____ but that he is also our _____; this is what distinguishes the Christian's relationship to God and what allows us to relate to him as Father.

CONTEXT

His fatherhood is expressed in that _____ context and would make no sense apart from it.

SONSHIP

In the Son, we have been _____ into the family of God and become _____ of the Father's kingdom.

SIX ASPECTS OF GOD'S FATHERHOOD

1. _____ (Matt. 3:17, John 17:24, 1 John 4:10)
 - "Understanding the fatherhood of God begins with learning to be truly, extravagantly, tenaciously _____ — by God."
2. _____ (John 14:2, Exodus 16:15–16, John 6:32)
3. _____ (Proverbs 13:24, 1 Thessalonians 2:11–12)
4. _____ (Mark 1:35, 6:46; 1 Peter 5:7, Hebrews 7:25, Matthew 6:9)
5. _____ (John 6:37, 44, 65; 10:29–30; Isaiah 46:9–10)
6. _____ (1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 1:3–11)

“That insight is like a stick of dynamite in all our thoughts about God. For if, before all things, God was eternally a Father, then this God is an inherently outgoing, life-giving God. . . . Just as a fountain, to be a fountain, must pour forth water, so the Father, to be Father, must give out life. That is who he is. That is his most fundamental identity. Thus love is not something the Father has, merely one of his many moods. Rather, he is love. He could not not love. If he did not love, he would not be Father.” (Michael Reeves, *Delighting in the Trinity*, 24–26)

REFLECTION QUESTION

Are you allowing these aspects of the Father to inform the way you approach Him?

Homework:

Reflection from this Week:

Listen to the sermon by John Piper on Malachi 1:6-14 “Honor Thy Majestic Father”

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/honor-thy-majestic-father>

Preparation for Next week:

Read article by Stephen Wellum -

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/10-things-you-should-know-about-the-incarnation/>