

***The Heights Baptist Church * Sermon Series: Doctrine *
* Topic: God the Father * Various Verses * 2/22/26 ***

MAIN POINT

“We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.” (Opening line of the Nicene Creed)

INTRODUCTION

Which television dad do you think best exemplifies a good father? Which one doesn't?

If we hope to have a relationship with God the Father, we must understand that He reveals Himself to us through His love. The greatest display of God's love for us is found in the cross of Christ. When we understand the love of God displayed on calvary, we will begin loving each other self-sacrificially.

Note to study leader: This week, we are continuing our sermon-series on doctrine, looking at the doctrine of God the Father.

Note to study leader: A future lesson is scheduled to look at the Trinity, and seven other lessons in this doctrine series (including this lesson) are scheduled to look at the different roles of three persons of the Trinity.

It has become fairly popular these days for people to say something like, “I like Jesus, but I don't agree with everything the Bible teaches.” At the first moment, this might sound like a valid position. What is wrong with this statement?

The Bible explains to us who God is. By rejecting its teachings, we now can create a false god of our own making. We are then worshipping a god that we would like to exist, rather than the true God of the Bible.

UNDERSTANDING

THE THREE PERSONS OF THE TRINITY

ASK VOLUNTEERS TO READ THE FOLLOWING VERSES RELATED TO THE TRINITY

What do these verses tell us about what the roles of the persons of the Trinity are?

- **1 Peter 1:1-2:** God the Father chooses those who are His. Jesus saves us through His blood. The Holy Spirit Sanctifies us.
- **Ephesians 4:4-7:** There is one God and Father of us all, who is over all. Christ apportions grace to us. There is one Spirit, who provides us with unity.

What do these verses say about the relationship between the three persons of the trinity?

- **John 16:12-16:** The Holy Spirit speaks only what He hears. He glorifies Christ.
- **John 17:1-5:** The Father glorifies the Son, so the Son may glorify the Father.
- **John 6:37-40:** Christ does the will of the Father.
- **Luke 22:42:** Christ does the will of the Father.

How would you summarize the truths presented in these verses?

There is one God, who exists as three distinct, co-equal, co-eternal persons, who are all one in essence. Each person of the Trinity has a different role, with God the Father being first in rank.

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD THE FATHER

Note to study leader: Make a list on the white board as people come up with attributes of God based on the following verses.

ASK VOLUNTEERS TO READ THE FOLLOWING VERSES

God the Father is specifically referred to as “the Father”. Whose father is God the Father, according to these verses?

- **Matthew 16:16:** God the Father is the father of God the Son
- **Exodus 4:22:** God the Father is the father of Israel
- **Romans 8:14-16:** God the Father is the father of the church
- **Matthew 6:6-9:** God the Father is the Father of all of us who choose to accept Jesus.
- **John 8:42-44:** God the Father is the Father of those who love Jesus, and NOT the Father of those who reject Jesus.

How would you summarize the truths given in these verses about who God the Father is father of?

God the Father is father of God the Son, father of Israel, father of the church, and father of all who love and accept Jesus. These verses also refute the idea that God is the father of everyone, even those who reject His Son Jesus.

What attributes of God the Father are mentioned in these verses?

- **Revelation 4:2-3, 8, and 5:1, 6:** God the Father is seated on the throne in heaven. He is glorious, and holy, holy, holy.
- **1 Timothy 6:13-16 and John 1:18:** God is the blessed and only ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light.
- **John 3:16:** God the Father loves the world and sent His Son.
- **1 John 3:1:** God the Father lavishes His love on us.
- **1 John 4:8-10:** God the Father is love.
- **Matthew 7:11:** God the Father gives us good gifts.
- **Luke 11:13:** God the Father gives us His Holy Spirit.
- **1 Corinthians 1:9:** God the Father is faithful.

How would you combine these truths into one doctrine about who God the Father is?

God the Father gloriously reigns on His throne in heaven. He is holy, holy, holy, and lives in unapproachable light. He loves us and sent His Son Jesus to us. He is faithful and gives us good gifts. He gives us His Spirit.

In the start of the Lord’s prayer, Jesus taught us to pray this way; “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.” (Matthew 6:9). Up to that time, it was not a normal occurrence for Jewish people to call God their Father. And yet Jesus used the word “Father” for God 165 times in the gospels. Why is this such an important shift in how we view God as Christians?

God is the all-powerful, all-knowing, holy God who created the universe and everything in it. It was a radical idea that through Christ we can approach God as our Father, meaning we are His children. This title expresses the intimate relationship we can have with him through Jesus.

“In this life no one can fulfill his longing, or can any creature satisfy man’s desire. Only God satisfies, he infinitely exceeds all other pleasures. This is why man can rest in nothing but God.”
Thomas Aquinas, (~1250 AD)

HOW GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO US

ASK VOLUNTEERS TO READ THE FOLLOWING VERSES

God is holy, holy, holy (perfectly pure and separate from creation) and lives in unapproachable light. No one has seen God. What do these verses tell us about how God reveals Himself to us?

- **John 1:14,18:** God reveals Himself through His Son Jesus Christ.
- **1 Corinthians 2:9-10:** God reveals Himself through His Holy Spirit.
- **Hebrews 11:1 and 2 Corinthians 5:7:** God reveals Himself through our faith.
- **Romans 10:17:** Our faith comes from God's word.
- **Romans 1:18-20:** God reveals Himself through His creation.
- **Psalms 19:1-2:** God reveals Himself through His creation
- **Romans 2:14-15:** God reveals Himself through the human heart.
- **Ecclesiastes 3:11:** God reveals Himself through the human heart.

How would you combine these truths about how our holy God reveals Himself to us?

God reveals himself through Christ, through His Spirit, through His word, through nature, and by placing a knowledge of Him in our hearts.

APPLICATION

ASK VOLUNTEERS TO READ THE FOLLOWING VERSES

In our introduction to the book of Proverbs lesson (February 1st), we read from Proverbs 1:7 that, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom". Why is getting to know God important, according to these verses?

- **Jeremiah 9:23-24:** Something worth boasting about is understanding and knowing God, who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, as these are the things that God delights in.
- **Proverbs 9:10:** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. God is the only source of true wisdom and understanding, and this is gained through knowledge of Him.
- **2 Peter 1:2-3:** Grace and peace can be ours in abundance through our knowledge of God and His Son Jesus Christ.

What can I do to begin to get to know God better this week?

PRAYER

Hallelujah! For you, our Lord God Almighty reign. Let us rejoice and be glad and give you glory! You are holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come. Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. You are the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to you for ever and ever. Father, we pray that out of your glorious riches you may strengthen us with power through your Spirit in our inner being, so that we would abide in Christ, and His manifest presence may dwell in our hearts through faith. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Note to study leader: Since this lesson is comprised of many individual passages from scripture rather than one larger chunk of scripture, the usual Commentary section is not included in this lesson.