

God the Father: Sovereign, Faithful, and Near

Essential: What Christians Really Believe

Introduction

Many people have different experiences with the word '*father*.' For some, it brings happy memories. For others, it brings pain or confusion. Some know their father well. Others do not. So when Christians say "*God is our Father*," we must understand what that really means.

God is not like our earthly fathers. He is not just a better version of them. He is the true Father. He is the original, the source, the one from whom all fatherhood gets its meaning.

In this sermon, we learn who God the Father is. We begin by looking at who He is in Himself—as the first person of the Trinity—and then we see how He relates to His creation, keeps His promises, and finally, how He becomes our Father through Jesus Christ.

Section I: God the Father—First Person of the Trinity

Bible Readings: John 17:1-5; Ephesians 1:3-6

Before God was our Father, He was already the Father. He is the Father within the Trinity—the first of the three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Father has always been the Father. He did not become Father when He created the world or when Jesus was born. He has always been Father because the Son has always existed.

In John 17, Jesus says that the Father and the Son shared glory before the world was created. This shows us that God's identity as Father is eternal.

The Father is not more God than the Son or the Spirit. All three are equal in being but different in relationship. The Father is the one who sends. He sends the Son into the world. He sends the Holy Spirit through the Son. He plans salvation. He chooses His people. He begins creation and keeps His promises.

Ephesians 1 reminds us that the Father chose us in Christ before the world began. All of God's plans start with the Father. He is not far away or uninterested. He is working with the Son and the Spirit in all things.

Section II: God the Father – Ruler of History and Keeper of Covenant

Bible Readings: Psalm 103; Exodus 34:6-7; Romans 8:28-30

God the Father is not just the creator of the world. He rules over it. He watches over history, over nations, and over our lives. Psalm 103 says God rules over all. He is in control of everything. This is called providence. God is not far away. He is active in the world.

Sometimes we can see this clearly—when prayers are answered or things go well. But other times, it is hard to see. When life is painful or confusing, we may not understand what God is doing. But the Bible teaches that even in hard times, God is still working for the good of His people (Romans 8).

God is also a promise-keeping Father. In the Old Testament, His people often disobeyed. But God stayed faithful. He is full of grace and mercy. Exodus 34 says He is “slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”

We see this in the wilderness, in the exile, and most of all in Jesus. The Father does not forget His people. He is patient. He is just. He disciplines with love. And He is always working toward His promise of salvation.

Section III: God the Father – Relational, Accessible, and Good

Bible Readings: Matthew 6:9-13; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:14-17

Many people believe in God. Even in modern countries, most people believe in a higher power. But believing in God is not the same as knowing Him as Father.

Jesus teaches us to pray, “*Our Father in heaven.*” He wants us to know that the Father is not only powerful but also personal. He is not just the God of creation or kings – He is the Father of His people.

We are not born into this relationship. Because of sin, we are separated from God. But through Jesus, we can be adopted. John 1 says that those who believe in Jesus are given the right to become children of God.

Romans 8 says that through the Spirit, we can call God “Abba, Father.” That word “Abba” is close and personal. It is not childish, but it is very loving. It is the word Jesus used when He cried out to God in prayer. And now, we are invited to do the same.

The Father knows your name. He listens when you pray. He delights in you. He is not shaped by our human fathers – He is the perfect Father. He never abandons His children. He forgives, heals, and walks with us every day.

In Christ, you are not just accepted – you are welcomed, loved, and adopted as a true child of God.

Conclusion: Knowing the Father

God the Father is not just an idea. He is real. He is eternal. He is holy. He is good.

He is the first person of the Trinity. He sends the Son and gives the Spirit. He rules the universe and keeps His promises. And He invites us to know Him personally.

If you are in Christ, then the Father is your Father – not sometimes, but always. He loves you, disciplines you, forgives you, and walks with you.

And if you are not sure – if God feels far away – the invitation is still open. The Son has made the way. The Spirit is calling. And the Father is waiting – not with arms crossed, but with arms open.

Come home. Come to the Father.