

## God the Father

### Matthew 6:9a

<sup>9</sup> Pray then like this: 'Our Father in heaven...'

1. I don't want to think about this

"For me to call God a father was like calling an apple an orange. They didn't mix."<sup>1</sup>

2. I don't see the big deal.

### God's Fatherhood to Jesus, His Son

### ETERNAL

He is not begotten. There never was a time that He wasn't.

And even more, there never was a time that He wasn't FATHER.

"Fatherhood on earth is but a distant and vague reflection of the fatherhood of God."<sup>2</sup>

"But in God all this is different. He is solely, purely, and totally Father. He is Father alone; he is Father by nature and Father eternally, without beginning or end."<sup>3</sup>

### John 5:26

Jesus says to the Pharisees, <sup>26</sup> For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

### John 5:15-18

<sup>15</sup> The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. <sup>16</sup> And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. <sup>17</sup> But Jesus answered them, 'My Father is working until now, and I am working.' <sup>18</sup> **This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God."**

### 1 Corinthians 8:6

<sup>6</sup> yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

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<sup>1</sup> Jonathan C. Edwards, "Is God the Father Like My Father?," July 20, 2016, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/is-god-the-father-like-my-father/>

<sup>2</sup> Bavinck, 307.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

## God's Fatherhood to all of creation

## GENERAL

Every human is created in the image of God, and therefore ought to worship God as their Father.

### Luke 3:38

<sup>38</sup> the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

### Acts 17:28

<sup>28</sup> for "'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, "'For we are indeed his offspring.'

### Ephesians 3:14-15

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,

### Hebrews 12:9

<sup>9</sup> Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?

## God's Fatherhood to His people / elect.

## SPECIAL

"What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God! That's who we really are." (1 John 3:1, *The Message*)

"We relate to God as Father, through Jesus the Son, sharing in his sonship through the adoption we receive through Christ's redeeming work for us."<sup>4</sup>

### Deuteronomy 14:1-2

<sup>1</sup> "You are the sons of the LORD your God... <sup>2</sup> For you are a people holy to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

### Psalms 103:13

<sup>13</sup> As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

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<sup>4</sup> Gerald Bray, "God as Father," <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/god-as-father/>

Isaiah 63:16-17

<sup>16</sup> For you are our Father,  
though Abraham does not know us,  
and Israel does not acknowledge us;  
you, O LORD, are our Father,  
our Redeemer from of old is your name.  
<sup>17</sup> O LORD, why do you make us wander  
from your ways  
and harden our heart, so that we fear you  
not?  
Return for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes of your heritage.

Isaiah 64:8-9

<sup>8</sup> But now, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
<sup>9</sup> Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,  
and remember not iniquity forever.  
Behold, please look, we are all your people.

Malachi 2:10

<sup>10</sup> Have we not all one Father? Has not  
one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our  
fathers?

Matthew 7:11

<sup>11</sup> If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will  
your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

John 1:12-13

<sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become  
children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of  
man, but of God.

John 4:21

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain  
nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.

Romans 8:12-17

<sup>12</sup> So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup> For if you  
live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the  
body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> **For you did not  
receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption  
as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"** <sup>16</sup> **The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit**

**that we are children of God,<sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.**

### So What?

#### 1. Lament

Psalm 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 13, 14, 22, 25, 39, , 41, 42, 43, 54, 55, 56, 57, 69, 70, 71, 77, 86, 88, 140, 141, 142, 22

#### 2. Recalibrate

"Earthly fathers have certain remote similarities to Him... (but) the essence of fatherhood is found in God, not in human beings."<sup>5</sup>

### John 20:17

<sup>17</sup> "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

"Jesus says that our Father in heaven is a good father. He's not too busy for you. He's not a deadbeat, absentee, disinterested dad. When we talk to him, we know he hears. When we pray, and ask, we know that he listens. And better yet, he always knows what is best for us. He provides our needs and shapes us and disciplines us, like a good father would his children. It makes him happy to do so because he delights in us. He actually wants us.

"No one forced him to begrudgingly take us in. And there was nothing we could have done to earn it. No amount of good deeds or determination to do better could bring us into the family of God. We are his because he has made us his, and then bought us back. Not because we were born into a certain family or country or bloodline or spoke some magical words. But because, before the foundation of the world, God chose to adopt us in Christ.

"And he did what he planned to do by giving his unique Son to take our place and to pay the debt that we owed. Our sin had earned us nothing but death and hell. But Jesus took our death and all the wrath of hell upon himself, and at the cross, he conquered it all so that we wouldn't get what we deserve, but would receive grace upon grace.

"He took what we deserved so that we would have what he deserved."<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Gene Veith. Quoted here: <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/god-the-father/>

<sup>6</sup> Stephen Miller, "Worship God as Our Father," May 24, 2015: <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/worship-god-as-our-father>.