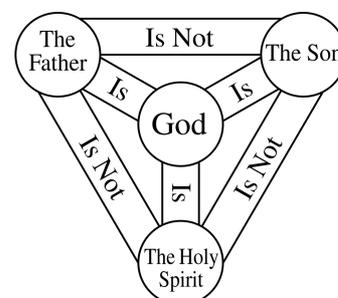


# Who is God the Father?

God as revealed in the Bible is Triune or a Trinity. He is one God made up three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. This means that all three 'Persons' of the Godhead make up the one God.

Often when people use the term "God" they are referring to God the Father, but biblically it is incorrect to say that only the Father is God. The Son and the Spirit are also God as well and essential to the Biblical concept of God. The diagram helps to explain some of the essential elements and distinctions of the Trinity.



We will look at God the Son and God the Spirit in future studies. In this study, we are going to focus on one Person of the Godhead, God the Father. We are going to see from the Bible that God the Father is: 1) Father of all creation; 2) Father to Israel; 3) Father of the Lord Jesus Christ; and 4) Father of all who believe.

**KEY VERSE: ROMANS 8:15** *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.'*

**BOOKS TO MEMORISE:** Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, **1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job**

**CHAPTERS TO READ THIS WEEK:** John 15-21

## I. FATHER OF ALL CREATION

**There is a general sense in which God Himself (not just the Father) is the Father of all creation and all men.**

**1 Corinthians 8:4-6**

*4 As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. 5 For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) 6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.*

**As Creator, He is the Originator or the Father of all things including:**

**1. Spirit Beings** = angels, including fallen angels or demons

**Hebrews 12:9**

*Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?*

**2. Lights** = sun, moon, stars, planets

**James 1:17**

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

### **3. Angels** = here are called ‘the sons of God’

#### **Job 1:6**

*Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them.*

### **4. Mankind**

#### **Acts 17:24–29**

*<sup>24</sup> God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; <sup>25</sup> Neither is worshipped with men’s hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; <sup>26</sup> And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; <sup>27</sup> That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: <sup>28</sup> For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. <sup>29</sup> Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device.*

### **As Father of all Creation...**

#### **He shows love and compassion.**

#### **2 Corinthians 1:3**

*Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;*

#### **He takes care of all things.**

#### **Matthew 6:26**

*Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?*

#### **He cares for those who don’t have a father to look after them.**

#### **Psalms 68:5**

*A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, Is God in his holy habitation.*

#### **He disciplines and corrects.**

#### **Proverbs 3:11–12**

*<sup>11</sup> My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; Neither be weary of his correction: <sup>12</sup> For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; Even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.*

## **What this means for us:**

We were brought into this world by an all-powerful, all-knowing Creator God and so our life has purpose, potential, and meaning.

We can look to our Creator, our Maker and know that if He can create us then He can sustain us.

If we feel let down by our biological fathers, God, the Father of the fatherless, is more than capable to fulfil every vacuum left in our hearts.

## II. FATHER TO ISRAEL

**God in a general sense is a Father to all Creation, but He is also Father in a specific sense to the nation of Israel.**

When delivering the nation of Israel from Egypt, God told Moses to:

*'...say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the Lord, Israel is my son, even my firstborn.'* (Exodus 4:22).

**This fatherhood of God governed His relationship with Israel and shows in vivid detail the way God is a Father.**

God brought them into being through the miracle of giving a son to Abraham in his old age.

God blessed them and was gracious to them, using an act of treachery toward Joseph to be the means of their salvation.

God provided for them in the wilderness and led them into a home in Canaan.

God promised David that he would be a father to his son Solomon as he reigned.

**2 Samuel 7:14**

*I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:*

God continued to look out for them and be good to them even when they messed up so much.

**Psalms 103:6-13**

*<sup>6</sup> The Lord executeth righteousness And judgment for all that are oppressed. <sup>7</sup> He made known his ways unto Moses, His acts unto the children of Israel. <sup>8</sup> The Lord is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. <sup>9</sup> He will not always chide: Neither will he keep his anger for ever. <sup>10</sup> He hath not dealt with us after our sins; Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. <sup>11</sup> For as the heaven is high above the earth, So great is his mercy toward them that fear him. <sup>12</sup> As far as the east is from the west, So far hath he removed our transgressions from us. <sup>13</sup> Like as a father pitieth his children, So the Lord pitieth them that fear him.*

### **What this means for us:**

Everything we have and are comes from God.

Despite our sin, weakness, and failure, God is good and gracious to us.

# III. FATHER OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Even though God is portrayed as a Father, the imagery of God as a Father is quite rare in the Old Testament (only about 15 times). When we come to the New Testament and listen to the teachings of Jesus, we find the term “Father” exploding across the pages of Scripture.

**We first find the Father identifying Jesus as His Son at His baptism.**

**Matthew 3:17**

*And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

**The term “Father” is used sixty-five times in the Matthew, Mark, and Luke and one hundred times in the Gospel of John.**

**Jesus called God the Father, ‘Abba’, which is an Aramaic term for father.** It was an informal term children might use to address their father and signified great affection and closeness.

**Mark 14:36**

*And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.*

**When Jesus called God His Father, it shocked the Jews because it was a claim to be equal with God - of the same nature as God the Father.**

**John 5:17–23**

*<sup>17</sup> But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. <sup>18</sup> Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God. <sup>19</sup> Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. <sup>20</sup> For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. <sup>21</sup> For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. <sup>22</sup> For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: <sup>23</sup> That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.*

**The intimacy and closeness that Jesus enjoyed with the Father is one that He expected His disciples to have with God the Father as well.** Notice how they were to address God in the model prayer:

**Luke 11:2**

*And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.*

**Jesus is the Son of God in a very unique way.** He is the eternal Son of God, existing with the Father for all eternity.

**John 1:18**

*No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.*

**The Sonship of Jesus is therefore different from those who are “sons” of God through adoption.**

**John 20:17**

*Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.*

## What this means for us:

**The only way to know the Father is through the Son.**

**John 14:6**

*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

**To reject the Son is to reject the Father.**

**John 5:23**

*That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.*

## IV. FATHER OF ALL WHO BELIEVE

**Jesus, who is one with the Father, came to reveal the Father to us.**

**Matthew 11:27**

*All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.*

**Jesus is the means by which all men and women can have the opportunity to be born into God's family as His adopted sons/daughters.**

**John 1:12-13**

*<sup>12</sup> But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: <sup>13</sup> Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

**Those who believe on Jesus are privileged to be the children of God.**

**Galatians 3:26**

*For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.*

**Those who believe on Jesus can then enjoy this close intimacy with God the Father.**

**Romans 8:14-17**

*<sup>14</sup> For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. <sup>16</sup> The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: <sup>17</sup> And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

## What this means for us:

**Sin separates you from the God who created you.**

**Jesus came to rescue you from your sin and reconcile you back to God.**

**You must believe on Jesus to be born again.**

**John 3:3**

*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

# COME HOME TO THE FATHER

Sometimes due to bad experiences with an earthly father, people recoil at the thought of God the Father, imposing on Him their own disappointments and bitterness toward their earthly father. Luke 15 gives us a great illustration of the kind of father that God is.

The chapter begins by talking about a lost sheep and a lost coin. In both examples the shepherd goes looking for the sheep and the woman goes looking for her coin. In the same way, God goes looking for sinners who have been lost through carelessness and foolishness.

The final parable tells us about a lost son and is one of the most beautiful examples of the love of the Father for us.

v.11-13 The young man takes his inheritance early and deliberately leaves His father behind and lives it up for a while.

v.14-16 This lifestyle leaves him empty, friendless, and hungry.

v.17-20a He remembers how good it was in his Father's house and decides to go home, planning to only ask to be a servant.

v.20b-24 But his father sees him coming a long ways away, has compassion, and runs to him. The son's confession is cut off by the Father's insistence on putting a robe on his son, a ring on his finger, shoes on his feet, and throwing a party for him.

In the same way, all of us take the good things of God, go our own way and do our own thing. Life without God eventually leads to emptiness. If we will repent of our sin and come back to the Father through Jesus, He will restore us, love us, and make us one of His children.

God is not an impassive, distant, and uncaring Father. He is a loving Father, a compassionate Father, and He will run to all those who repent of their sin, come to themselves, and turn in faith to Him. Because of what Christ did on the cross, He can justly restore us and reward us with everlasting life and an eternal home.

**Won't you come home? The Father is waiting!**