

Major Bible Themes

52 Vital Doctrines of the Scriptures Simplified and Explained

Adapted from the book *Major Bible Themes*
written by Lewis Sperry Chafer and revised by John f. Walvoord

God the Father

- The Father as the First Person
 - The title of First Person comes from the irreversible order of the Father sending the Son and the Father/Son sending the Holy Spirit.
 - This title in no way lessens the ineffable deity of the Son or the Holy Spirit.
 - Four distinct aspects of the fatherhood of God:
 - ✦ God as the Father of all creation.
 - ✦ God the Father by intimate relationship.
 - ✦ God as the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - ✦ God as the Father of all who believe in Jesus Christ.
- Fatherhood Over Creation
 - Although all three persons of the Trinity participated in the creation, God the Father in a special way is the Father of all creation.
 - Eph 3:14-15 tells us that angels and men constitute a family of which God is the Father.
 - Angels are referred to as “sons” of God (Job 38:7).
 - All things are from the Father (1 Cor 8:6).
 - God is the Father of lights (Jas 1:17) and the Father of spirits (Heb 12:9).
 - These passages tell us He is the Father of all creation, but only those who are His true children call to Him as Father (Gal 4:6).
- Fatherhood by Intimate Relationship
 - In Ex 4:22 we see Israel declared as God’s son.
 - ✦ This is more than fatherhood as Creator.
 - ✦ This is less than spiritual fatherhood for not all of Israel was saved.
 - ✦ This denotes a special relationship of divine care.
 - God has a special fatherhood over Solomon (2 Sam 7:14).
 - In general, God declares that His care as a Father will be over all who trust Him as their God (see Ps 103:13).
- The Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ
 - He is “the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph 1:3).
 - Jesus Christ is frequently referred to as the Son of God.

- The intimacy of the First and Second Persons of the Trinity is described in the father-son relationship.
- Not every aspect of father-son is applicable since the Second Person of the Trinity is eternal and has always been the Son.
- He was given to the world as a Son, not that He might become one (Isa 9:6; Jn 3:16-17).
- The relationship of Father and Son relates to the unity and deity of the Holy Trinity from all eternity.
- In contrast, the relationship of the Father to the humanity of Christ began in time when His humanity came into existence.
- The fact that the Father is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, though mentioned infrequently in the O.T., is one of the most general teachings of the N.T.
 - ✦ The Son of God is said to be begotten of the Father (Ps 2:7; John 1:14, 18; 3:16, 18; 1 John 4:9).
 - ✦ The Father acknowledged the Lord Jesus Christ to be His Son (Matt 3:17; 17:5; Luke 9:35).
 - ✦ The Father is acknowledged by the Son (Matt 11:27; 26:63-64; Luke 22:29; John 8:16-29, 33-44; 17:1).
 - ✦ The fact that God the Father is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is acknowledged by men (Mt 16:16; Mk 15:39; John 1:34, 49).
 - ✦ The demons recognize the father-son relationship (Matt 8:29).
- The Father of All Who Believe in Christ
 - God is the Father in a special sense of those who believe in Christ and have eternal life.
 - It is by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit that the believer is made a legitimate child of God.
 - It is our second birth, our spiritual birth, that gives us the right to be children of God (John 1:12; Gal 3:26; Eph 2:19).
 - Not all men are true children of God by natural birth – Jesus Christ identified some as children of the devil (John 8:44).
 - The Fatherhood of God is an important doctrine of the N.T. (John 20:17; 1 Cor 15:24; Col 1:12-13; 1 John 1:3; 2:1, 22; 3:1).
 - The care of our Heavenly Father should be a great comfort.

- Questions
 - How are the works of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit contrasted in the N.T?
 - What are the four distinct aspects of the fatherhood of God?
 - Summarize the evidence that God is the Father of all creation.
 - What is meant by the fatherhood of God by intimate relationship?
 - Discuss the question of the eternity of the relationship of father and son between God the Father and Jesus Christ.
 - What are some of the evidences supporting the concept of God the Father in relation to Jesus Christ the Son?
 - What is meant by God being the Father of all who believe in Christ?
 - How does man become a son of God?
 - What are some of the results of becoming a son of God?
 - What is the error involved in stating that all men are the children of God?
 - How does the fatherhood of God provide comfort to a believer in Christ?