

Doctrine



*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path...
The entrance of Your words gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple. Psalm 119:105,130*

God the Father

THEOLOGY

There is One God, manifested in three persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

DOCTRINE

Calvary Old Path believes what we know as God is 3 distinct persons, yet one in essence. God, the Father, is who Jesus came to make known in ways the Old Testament could not fully explain, because Jesus the Son had not yet become flesh (*John 1:14*). We will examine the subject of God the Father in this handout.

These are the areas we will cover to help you understand our beliefs regarding God, the Father.

1. God the Father, the First Person of the Triune God.
2. How is God the Father Revealed to Us?
3. How Was He known in the Old Testament as Compared to the New Testament?
4. For the Believer, What is Our Relationship to the Father?
5. How is He Involved as it Relates to Prayer?

God the Father, the First Person of the Triune God.

The Old Testament gives us glimpses of the what we call the Triune God, but until the writing of the New Testament, we were not entirely clear on who God is. Our first clue is given to us in *Genesis 1:1*.

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

What makes this passage so important is the Hebrew word for God. Most would think the word most often equated with God in the Old Testament is the name ***Jehovah***. In fact the word used here is the name ***Elohim***, and that is essential if we are to understand the view of a Triune God. Both Hebrew words are used numerous times in the Hebrew text.

We can all agree that the bible teaches that God is the Creator. We also know the Hebrew word Jehovah is a singular noun. So when *Genesis 1:1* uses Elohim, this makes for an interesting study. Without getting into a lengthy discussion about the Hebrew language, ***Elohim*** is used of highly positioned humans, angels, pagan deities, etc. Context is always the way to understand what is meant in its more than 2600 usages in the Old Testament. In the *Genesis 1* passage, God is clearly meant because no other entity was present at the creation. So why use a plural, unless God is known as different persons?

With that as background, we see God interact with His creation throughout the Bible and He reveals Himself to Abraham, Jacob, Moses and many others. He did not appear in person, but would audibly communicate at numerous times in Israel's history.

How is God the Father Revealed to Us?

Of course our only source is the Bible, but to understand the term the Father, we may not realize as we use it that we know more of Him as Father because of Jesus the Son. It was Jesus who referred to Him as Father on countless occasions. Here is but one example:

John 8

“¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. ¹⁶ And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me. ¹⁷ It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true. ¹⁸ I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me.” ¹⁹ Then they said to Him, “Where is Your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.”

In this brief passage, Jesus uses the term 5 times and “My” as a qualifier in the last verse. In John’s gospel, Jesus makes mention of His desire to make the Father known. He also wants to be sure that people know that though He is the Son, He is indeed one in essence with the Father, though a distinct person.

John 14

“7 If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.” 8 Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. 11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.”

In this verse, and many others, we see Jesus was sent by the Father to make Him known among the nations. We will look at other parts of Jesus’ ministry in our booklet, **God the Son**.

How was He Known in the Old Testament as Compared to the New Testament?

What we see in the Old Testament is more His attributes that makes Him who He is. Though what is known as the Trinity is supported in the Hebrew text of the Old Testament, we did not have a full understanding of how each person works among the people. As for His attributes, He describes Himself to Moses like this *Exodus 34*:

“5 Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and

transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

Although the Triune God has always existed, we could not have known God as we do until Jesus came to show us who the Father was and is. At the same time showing us who He is and ultimately promising the Holy Spirit, whom the Father would send as Jesus left this earth.

For the Believer, What is Our Relationship to the Father?

Our relationship to the Father is one of reconciliation as sons and daughters, through the work of Jesus, who paid the price for sin. As a result, we are now able to come to Him because we are accepted in the Son. We are able to cry out "Father." In *Romans 8* we read this:

"15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,"

How is He Involved as it Relates to Prayer?

When we pray, we can give thanks, and we can ask of Him what we need. We can depend on Him as Father too. We see this in Jesus' model for prayer in *Matthew 6:5-15*. It is to the Father we pray and do so by the privilege given to us in Jesus the Son. *John 14:6*.

Ours is also a relationship of worship, or as some put it worth-ship. We worship, adore, and are grateful to the One who sent His Son to reconcile us from sin. Ours is a relationship of longing to be where He is, and He has done all to make that a reality to be realized when we are gathered to him after this life.



On the Path Discernment Ministry

Discernment is always mentioned in scripture in a favorable light. Discernment was promoted as a way to avoid error and cause the believer to continually be seeking and watching with vigilance. Accordingly, these materials are provided for you in order to assist you in growing in your knowledge and understanding of God's Word. We have taken great care to give a thorough and expansive explanation of the positions of the church.

Calvary Old Path of Cypress
5202 Lincoln Ave.
Cypress, CA. 90630
714 236-1288
Email : discern@oldpath.net www.oldpath.net

These booklets are provided to explain Old Path's teachings on topics of theology and doctrine. Should you have questions on doctrinal matters or would like further clarity on these positions, you can email us and we will assist you by researching the needed matters. However, we do not provide these booklets with the intention of debating.