

III. Paterology in the New Testament

The majority of this doctrine is developed in the New Testament. In review, God is mentioned as a father 14 times in the Old Testament and 256 times in the New Testament. Look for the upper case "F" whenever you come across the word "Father" the next time you read through the New Testament.

Let's make some observation of God as a Father as taught in the New Testament. These observations are about Himself, His unique relationship with His Son, and His relationship to us as a Father.

A. The Gospel Of Matthew

1. Everything we do as His children should glorify God as our Father.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16).

Never embarrass your Heavenly Father. May your works only glorify Him. See examples of how to do this in Matthew 5:44-45.

2. God the Father is perfect.

"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." (Matthew 5:48).

He is complete and perfectly balanced. He is also flawless, pure and sinless.

3. The Father rewards proper actions and behavior.

"Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly. And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." (Matthew 6:1-6). See also verses 16-18.

He will reward His child openly who secretly gives alms, prays and fasts.

4. He knows what His children need before they ask Him.

"Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him." (Matthew 6:8). See also Luke 12:30.

5. He can be approached and prayed to.

"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." (Matthew 6:9-13). The "Lord's Prayer" is actually a model for His children to pray to Him.

6. The Heavenly Father will not forgive those who do not forgive others.

“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Matthew 6:14,15).

7. He feeds, clothes and meets the needs of His children.

“Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?” (Matthew 6:25). Read also verses 26-34.

8. He knows how to give good gifts to His children.

“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?” (Matthew 7:11).

Not harmful or useless gifts.

9. He has a will for His children.

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21).

His children are not just “on their own” to do whatever they please. He births them and has a plan for their lives. The best example of this is in His perfect son Jesus who said, “For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.” (John 6:38,39). See also Luke 22:42.

10. The Heavenly Father will teach His children the right answers and give them the words to say.

“For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.” (Matthew 10:20).

Fathers should help their children and give them knowledge and understanding about many things (Deuteronomy 6:6-9).

11. The Father values His children more than animals. He thinks about them all the time.

His children are always observed by Him. He even knows how many hairs are on their heads. “Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.” (Matthew 10:29-31).

This is also brought out in the Old Testament:

“How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.” (Psalm 139:17-18).

“Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.” (Psalm 40:5).

12. The Heavenly Father wants us to confess Jesus Christ before men and not be ashamed of Him.

“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32,33).

13. The Father reveals things to those who have a humble, childlike, learner’s attitude, not to the proud.

“At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.” (Matthew 11:25-26).

Also see Matthew 16:17 and Luke 10:21.

14. There is a unique relationship between the Heavenly Father and the Heavenly Son that we know nothing about.

“All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; ...” (Matthew 11:27a). See also Luke 10:22.

15. The Son of God reveals the Father to us.

“...neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.” (Matthew 11:27b). See also Luke 10:22.

16. Jesus considers those who do His Father’s will as His family .

“For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.” (Matthew 12:50).

17. Many religious people have not been “planted” by the Heavenly Father.

“But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.” (Matthew 15:13).

18. The Father is surrounded by angels in Heaven who behold His face.

“Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 18:10).

The angels wait for instructions from the Father to deliver messages (in the past) or give protection or help to His children.

19. The Father does not want one child (who has passed an age of accountability) to perish.

“Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.” (Matthew 18:14).

20. The Father will answer the united prayer of two people who ask something of Him in harmony with His will.

“Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 18:19).

21. The Father will deal severely with those who do not forgive others from their hearts.

Read the parable in Matthew 18:23-35.

22. The Father will be the Judge of who gets what position in His Kingdom.

“And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.” (Matthew 20:23).

23. In a spiritual sense, only one is our Father: God in Heaven.

“And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.” (Matthew 23:9).

We are not to call any religious leader on earth our “father.” The only exception is to refer to the one who led us to the Lord. We should be “fathers” only in the sense of soul-winning (see 1 Corinthians 4:15).

24. Only the Father knows the day when Jesus Christ will come back.

“But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.” (Matthew 24:36).

25. The Father will only allow the saved to enter the Kingdom of God.

“Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:” (Matthew 25:34).

26. All who are baptized should be baptized in the name of the Father.

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:” (Matthew 28:19).