

THEOLOGY — TEACHING ON THE GENERAL REVELATION & NATURE OF GOD

Why study theology? Why concern ourselves with doctrines like general revelation or the nature of God? Because in these truths lies the very foundation of life itself. Theology is not a dry, academic pursuit—it is the fire that fuels our worship, the compass that guides our lives, and the lens through which we see everything in creation and beyond. Theology is the knowledge of God, and there is no greater pursuit.

Have you ever stared at the vast expanse of the night sky or stood at the edge of the ocean, overwhelmed by the beauty, power, and majesty of it all? What if I told you that every star, every wave, every intricate detail of creation is shouting, “God exists!”? This is the glory of **general revelation**—God’s unveiling of Himself through what He has made and what He has inscribed in the conscience of every human being.

Paul declares in Romans 1:20, “For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.” Creation itself testifies to the eternal power and divine nature of God. The heavens declare His glory (Psalm 19:1), and the human heart bears witness to His law (Romans 2:15). This

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truth confronts every human being with the reality of their Creator, leaving none with an excuse for unbelief.

But here's the burning question: **Is this revelation enough?** Does creation's testimony bring us to salvation? Can the whisper of God in the stars lead us to the Savior on the cross? Paul answers that question with sobering clarity: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17). General revelation reveals that there is a God, but it is the Scriptures—the special revelation of God—that reveal how we can know Him and be saved.

In this study, we will explore how God has revealed Himself to humanity. We will marvel at His handiwork in creation and stand in awe of His eternal, self-existent nature. We will see the limits of general revelation and the urgent necessity of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And as we dive deeper into the truth of who God is, our hearts will be stirred to worship, to obedience, and to mission.

This is not just a study for theologians or pastors—it is for you. Whether you are a new believer hungry to know the God who saved you or a seasoned saint seeking to rekindle your passion for Him, this series will challenge, encourage, and equip you. You will come to know God as He is revealed in His Word: eternal, all-powerful, all-knowing, holy, and good. And in knowing Him, you will find strength, hope, and purpose for every aspect of your life.

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So I urge you—don't skim the surface. Don't settle for vague ideas about God. Dive in! Let your mind be stretched and your heart set ablaze. Theology is not a burden; it is the greatest joy because it is the knowledge of the greatest Being. As you journey through this series, may you be captivated by the One who declares, "I AM THAT I AM" (*Exodus 3:14*), the Creator of all things, the sustainer of life, and the Redeemer of sinners.

Beloved, the glory of God is all around you, and the truth of God is before you. Let this be the year you go deeper, know Him more, and live fully for His glory. **Will you take the journey?**

God's Revelation

General revelation is a fundamental concept that refers to how God reveals Himself universally to all humanity through creation and the human conscience. It is distinct from special revelation, which is God's direct communication of specific truths, such as through Scripture or Jesus Christ.

This concept is deeply rooted in Scripture and reveals the divine nature and power of God to every human being. However, it is essential to understand its limitations and its role in God's plan for humanity. While general revelation brings us to theism, it does not provide the knowledge

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necessary for salvation. The Scriptures, particularly the King James Version (KJV), serve as our guide to exploring this vital truth.

God's Revelation in Creation and Conscience

The Apostle Paul, in Romans 1:19-21, declares, "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." This passage emphasizes that the evidence of God's existence is evident in the natural world, leaving no room for excuses among those who deny Him. The psalmist echoes this sentiment in Psalm 19:1-4: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge."

The magnificence of creation speaks of God's power, wisdom, and majesty. From the intricate design of a single cell to the vast expanse of the universe, every element of creation points to a Creator who is both infinitely powerful and intimately involved with His creation.

Similarly, the conscience serves as an internal testimony to God's moral standards. Paul writes in Romans 2:14-15, "For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the

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things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another." Even those without access to Scripture have an innate sense of right and wrong, pointing to the moral lawgiver.

The Limitations of General Revelation

While general revelation provides undeniable evidence of God's existence and attributes, it is insufficient for leading one to salvation. Paul clarifies in Romans 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Salvation requires specific knowledge of Jesus Christ, which comes through special revelation, namely the Scriptures and the preaching of the Gospel.

Acts 17:24-28 illustrates this concept further. Paul acknowledges the Athenians' recognition of a divine being but directs them to the knowledge of the one true God who "hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth." This highlights that while general revelation leads to theism, special revelation is necessary for understanding God's redemptive plan.

Theological and Practical Implications

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Understanding general revelation shapes our worldview and our mission. It reveals God's majesty and our accountability to Him, as all are "without excuse" (Romans 1:20). However, it also compels believers to share the Gospel, knowing that special revelation is necessary for salvation.

The church, as the body of Christ, has a responsibility to proclaim the truths of Scripture, pointing others to the God who reveals Himself through creation, conscience, and His Word. This task aligns with the Great Commission, as we are called to make disciples of all nations, teaching them to observe all things commanded by Christ (Matthew 28:19-20).

Special Revelation

Special revelation refers to God's specific and direct communication of Himself and His will to humanity, primarily through Scripture, Jesus Christ, and prophetic messages. Unlike general revelation, which is accessible to all through creation and conscience, special revelation provides the detailed truths necessary for salvation and understanding God's redemptive plan.

Hebrews 1:1-2 highlights this concept, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto

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us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by
whom also he made the worlds."

Special revelation is supremely expressed in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, and recorded in the Scriptures as God's inspired Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 1:14). It is through this revelation that humanity can know God personally and understand the way of salvation.

Conclusion

General revelation is a testament to God's existence, power, and moral order, accessible to all humanity through creation and conscience. It leads to the recognition of God but stops short of revealing the specific truths necessary for salvation. As believers, we are privileged to have access to special revelation through the Scriptures, enabling us to know God personally and proclaim His redemptive plan to the world. This understanding of general revelation reinforces the awe-inspiring truth of God's eternal and self-existent nature.

GOD'S ETERNAL AND SELF-EXISTENT NATURE

The God revealed through creation and conscience is uncreated and eternal. He proclaims in Exodus 3:14, "I AM THAT I AM," signifying His self-existence and unchanging nature. Psalm 90:2 reinforces this truth: "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the

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earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." Unlike creation, which is temporal and dependent, God exists outside the bounds of time and is the uncaused cause of all things.

This eternal nature differentiates God from all created beings, including humans and angels. Numbers 23:19 states, "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent." Similarly, Isaiah 55:8-9 declares, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD."

God as the All-Knowing, All-Powerful Creator

The doctrine of God's omniscience is foundational to understanding His interaction with creation. Psalm 147:5 declares, "Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite." God's knowledge encompasses every detail of His creation, from the grand movements of galaxies to the private thoughts of the human heart.

God's omnipotence is evident from the very first verse of the Bible: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). John 1:3 confirms this truth: "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." Hebrews 1:2 identifies Jesus Christ as the agent of creation: "By whom also he made the worlds."

THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY

The doctrine of the Trinity is a cornerstone of Christian theology, foundational to understanding the nature of God as revealed in Scripture. The concept, while mysterious and beyond full human comprehension, is firmly rooted in biblical teaching and essential to the Christian faith. It proclaims that there is one God who exists eternally in three distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal in power, co-eternal in existence, and co-identical in nature. They share the same divine essence, yet each fulfills unique roles in creation, redemption, and the believer's daily life.

The Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

The nature of God as a Trinity further underscores His uniqueness and incomprehensibility. Genesis 1:26 reveals a plural unity in the Godhead: "Let us make man in our image." The New Testament provides greater clarity, as seen in passages like Matthew 28:19, where Jesus commands, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

The doctrine of the Trinity affirms that God is one in essence but exists in three co-equal and co-eternal persons. This unity in diversity is a profound mystery that reflects God's infinite nature and serves as the foundation for understanding His work in creation and redemption.

Biblical Foundation for the Trinity

The doctrine of the Trinity is supported by numerous passages in Scripture that reveal the unity and diversity of the Godhead. Deuteronomy 6:4 declares, "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD," affirming the oneness of God. Yet, the Bible also reveals a plurality within this oneness. In Genesis 1:26, God says, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." The use of plural pronouns implies a divine conversation, indicating the presence of more than one person within the Godhead.

The New Testament further illuminates the doctrine. At the baptism of Jesus in Matthew 3:16-17, we see all three persons of the Trinity present and active. "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: and lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Here, the Father speaks from heaven, the Son is baptized, and the Spirit descends, demonstrating the distinct persons of the Trinity.

Jesus Himself affirmed the unity of the Godhead in John 10:30, saying, "I and my Father are one." While this statement highlights the unity of essence between the Father and the Son, it does not negate their distinct personhood. Similarly, the Holy Spirit is described as distinct, yet fully divine. Jesus refers to the Spirit as "another Comforter" in

The Triune God in Salvation

The roles of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in salvation are complementary and harmonious. Ephesians 1 provides a sweeping overview of their unified work. The Father initiates the plan of salvation "before the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:4). The Son accomplishes salvation through His sacrificial death and resurrection, as verse 7 states: "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins." The Holy Spirit seals believers, guaranteeing their inheritance until the day of redemption (Ephesians 1:13-14).

Each person of the Trinity contributes uniquely to the work of salvation. The Father sends the Son into the world (John 3:16), the Son willingly lays down His life for humanity (John 10:18), and the Spirit applies the work of Christ to the believer's heart, regenerating and sanctifying them (Titus 3:5 - Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost). This divine cooperation highlights the unity and diversity of the Godhead.

The Trinity in the Christian Life

The Trinity is not merely a theological abstraction; it profoundly impacts the believer's daily walk with God. Hebrews 7:25 speaks of Christ's ongoing intercession: "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." Jesus, as the believer's High Priest, continually intercedes before the Father on their behalf, ensuring their perseverance and growth in grace.

The Holy Spirit plays an indispensable role in the believer's life, as described in 1 Corinthians 2:11-16. The Spirit imparts understanding of spiritual truths, enabling believers to comprehend the mind of Christ. He also empowers them for service, produces spiritual fruit (Galatians 5:22-23), and provides comfort and guidance. The Father, as the source of all blessings, oversees and orchestrates the believer's spiritual journey, ensuring that "all things work together for good" (Romans 8:28).

The Athanasian Creed: A Clear Statement of Trinitarian Belief

The Athanasian Creed articulates the doctrine of the Trinity with precision and reverence. It declares:

“We worship one God in trinity and trinity in unity, neither confounding the persons nor dividing the

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substance. For there is one Person of the Father; another of the Son; and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one; the Glory equal, the Majesty coeternal. Such as the Father is; such is the Son; and such is the Holy Ghost. The Father uncreated; the Son uncreated; and the Holy Ghost uncreated. The Father unlimited; the Son unlimited; and the Holy Ghost unlimited. The Father eternal; the Son eternal; and the Holy Ghost eternal. And yet they are not three eternals; but one eternal. As also there are not three uncreated; nor three infinities, but one uncreated; and one infinite.”

This creed emphasizes both the unity and the distinctions within the Godhead, safeguarding against heresies such as modalism (which denies the distinct persons of the Trinity) and tritheism (which denies their unity).

Practical Implications of the Trinity

Understanding the Trinity enriches worship, as believers approach God with a fuller appreciation of His nature. Worship is directed to the Father, through the Son, and in the Spirit. This Trinitarian framework is evident in Jesus' teaching on prayer: "When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven" (Luke 11:2). Prayer is offered to the Father,

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enabled by the Son's mediation (1 Timothy 2:5), and
empowered by the Spirit (Romans 8:26-27).

The Trinity also provides a model for relationships. The unity and mutual love among the Father, Son, and Spirit serve as an example for human relationships, particularly within the body of Christ. Believers are called to reflect this unity in their interactions with one another (John 17:21 - That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me).

Conclusion

The doctrine of the Trinity is central to the Christian faith, affirming that God is one in essence yet three in person. This truth is woven throughout Scripture, from the Old Testament's glimpses of plurality within the Godhead to the New Testament's clear revelation of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Athanasian Creed encapsulates this doctrine with profound clarity, safeguarding against error and pointing believers to the majesty of the Triune God.

This understanding not only deepens theological knowledge but also enriches the believer's worship, prayer, and relationships. As finite beings, we cannot fully comprehend the infinite God, but we can marvel at His self-revelation and respond in humble adoration. The Trinity, though mysterious, remains a source of profound joy and assurance,

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for it reveals a God who is both incomprehensibly great and
intimately involved in the lives of His people.

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Understanding the attributes of God is essential for developing a comprehensive view of His character and nature. The attributes, also called perfections, properties, virtues, or predicates, are not additions to God's essence but are inherent to His being. They define who God is and how He operates within His creation and in His interactions with humanity. This study of God's attributes offers a glimpse into the infinite, eternal, and unchanging nature of the Almighty as revealed in the Bible.

The Essential Nature of God's Attributes

The attributes of God are distinguishing and permanent characteristics of His being, inseparable from His nature. They are demonstrated through divine revelation in Scripture, revealing God's majesty and character to humanity. Unlike human characteristics, which can be flawed or variable, God's attributes are perfect and immutable. They are not qualities God possesses externally; they are who He is intrinsically. As such, God's attributes demand worship, reverence, and awe.

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Scripture teaches that God's attributes fall into two prevailing categories: natural attributes, which pertain to His infinite power and scope, and moral attributes, which define how He exercises His nature, especially in relation to humanity.

Natural Attributes of God

God's Eternity - God is eternal, existing outside the confines of time. Psalm 90:2 declares, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." Unlike creation, which is temporal and fleeting, God has no beginning or end. In John 8:58, Jesus affirmed His eternal nature, saying, "Before Abraham was, I am," invoking the eternal present tense of God's existence. This timeless nature sets God apart as the sovereign ruler over all time and history.

God's Immutability - God's immutability, or unchangeableness, is a testament to His perfection. Malachi 3:6 proclaims, "For I am the LORD, I change not." Likewise, Hebrews 13:8 declares, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." Because God is perfect, He does not grow, improve, or diminish. His promises, purposes, and character remain steadfast, providing believers with assurance and stability in a world of constant change.

God's Transcendence - God is transcendent, far superior to and independent of His creation. Romans 1:21-23 warns against diminishing God's greatness by likening Him to created things, emphasizing that He is infinitely beyond the limitations of human understanding. His transcendence reminds us that He alone is worthy of worship, as Isaiah 40:18 asks, "To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?"

God's Infinity - God's infinity refers to the absence of any limitations upon His being. Acts 17:24 declares, "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." His omnipresence, omniscience, and omnipotence are expressions of His infinite nature, demonstrating that He cannot be contained by creation.

God's Omnipresence - God's omnipresence signifies that He is present everywhere at all times. Psalm 139:7-10 illustrates this attribute: "Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there." God's omnipresence provides comfort to believers, affirming that He is always near and attentive to their needs.

God's Omniscience - God's omniscience means He knows all things—past, present, and future. Ezekiel 11:5 declares, "I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them." Nothing is hidden from His sight. He comprehends

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the complexities of the universe and the depths of the human heart, as evidenced by 1 John 3:20: "For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things."

God's Omnipotence - God's omnipotence affirms that He possesses all power and authority. Genesis 18:14 asks rhetorically, "Is any thing too hard for the LORD?" His power is limitless, as Jeremiah 32:17 states, "Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee." God's omnipotence ensures that His purposes cannot be thwarted, providing believers with confidence in His sovereignty.

God's Sovereignty - As the sovereign Creator, God rules over all things and knows "the end from the beginning" (Isaiah 46:10). He governs the universe while respecting human free will, as exemplified in Genesis 50:20, where Joseph acknowledges God's providence even in human wrongdoing: "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good." His sovereignty guarantees that "all things work together for good" for those who love Him (Romans 8:28).

Moral Attributes of God

God's Holiness - God's holiness is a defining attribute, signifying His moral perfection and separation from sin.

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Exodus 15:11 proclaims, "Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?" Isaiah's vision in Isaiah 6:3 reinforces this truth: "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory." God's holiness demands reverence and sets the standard for His people's conduct (1 Peter 1:16).

God's Goodness - God's goodness encompasses His benevolence, mercy, and grace. Psalm 145:9 declares, "The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works." His goodness is manifested in His care for creation and His unmerited favor toward humanity, as seen in Romans 5:8: "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

God's Truth - God is the embodiment of truth. Numbers 23:19 states, "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent." His truthfulness ensures that His promises are reliable, providing believers with a firm foundation for faith and trust.

God's Mercy - God's mercy reflects His compassion and patience toward sinners. Psalm 103:8 declares, "The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy." His mercy provides hope for those who deserve judgment, exemplifying His willingness to forgive and restore.

God's Grace - God's grace is His unmerited favor, granting salvation to the undeserving. Romans 5:20 proclaims, "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." This attribute underscores the gospel message, reminding believers that salvation is a gift, not earned by works but given freely through faith in Christ.

God's Justice - God's justice ensures that He acts righteously and impartially. Isaiah 45:21 affirms, "There is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me." His justice guarantees that sin will be punished, but it also provides the basis for His redemptive work through Christ, who satisfied divine justice on the cross.

God's Attributes in the Believer's Life

Through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, believers are enabled to reflect God's moral attributes. Galatians 5:22-23 lists the "fruit of the Spirit," characteristics such as love, joy, peace, and faith, which mirror God's nature. While human beings cannot attain God's perfection, the transformative work of the Spirit allows them to grow in holiness and godliness, being "conformed to the image of his Son" (Romans 8:29).

Conclusion

The attributes of God reveal a being of infinite majesty, power, and holiness, worthy of all worship and adoration. His natural attributes emphasize His greatness, while His moral attributes underscore His goodness and relational nature. Together, they provide a complete picture of the God who creates, sustains, and redeems. As believers meditate on these attributes, they are drawn into deeper worship and greater conformity to His image, reflecting the glory of their Creator to a watching world.

THE ETERNAL FATHERHOOD OF GOD

Understanding God as the Eternal Father is a cornerstone of Christian theology, shedding light on His relationship within the Trinity and with humanity. God's eternal fatherhood signifies His immutable relationship with the Son and His unique bond with born-again believers.

The Eternal Father and the Eternal Son

The concept of God as the Eternal Father necessitates an eternal relationship with the Son. This truth is rooted in the doctrine of the Trinity, where God exists eternally as three distinct persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—co-equal in essence and co-eternal in existence. The Sonship of Christ is not a title derived from His incarnation alone; it is an eternal relational truth. Before the foundations of the world, Christ

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existed as the Son, eternally begotten of the Father, as reflected in John 1:1-2: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God."

This eternal Sonship does not imply inferiority but denotes a unique relational dynamic within the Godhead. In Genesis 1:1, the plural language used in "Let us make man in our image" (Genesis 1:26) affirms the active participation of the Trinity in creation. Furthermore, the Son's role as Redeemer underscores His eternal nature, as Galatians 4:4 reveals: "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law."

The incarnation of Christ, while occurring at a specific moment in history, does not mark the beginning of His existence. Luke 1:35 records the angel's words to Mary, affirming Christ's eternal nature: "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Jesus Christ's birth was the means of His physical entrance into the world, but His divine Sonship has no beginning or end.

God as Father in Relation to Humanity

Fatherhood and Creation

God's role as Father extends beyond the Trinity to His creative acts. Genesis 1:27 declares, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." All humanity bears the imprint of God's creative power, yet this does not establish a familial relationship with Him. While all men are creatures of God, this does not make them children of God in a spiritual or relational sense.

The distinction between creation and spiritual sonship is critical. Acts 17:28 acknowledges the universal truth of God's sovereignty over creation: "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." This "offspring" denotes humanity's dependence on God as Creator, but it does not imply a redemptive relationship.

Becoming Children of God

True sonship begins at salvation, when an individual is born again through faith in Christ. John 1:12-13 clarifies this distinction: "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: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." This passage highlights the transformative nature of salvation, whereby believers move from being creatures of God to children of God.

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Salvation is a spiritual re-creation, a process described in 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." This new creation establishes a familial relationship with God, enabling believers to call Him Father, as Romans 8:15 affirms: "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."

God's Fatherhood: Exclusive to Believers

The universal fatherhood of God is a misconception that Scripture does not support. While all men are created by God, spiritual fatherhood is reserved for those who are in Christ. Jesus Himself addressed this issue in John 8:44, stating to the Pharisees, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do." This stark declaration underscores that those outside of Christ are not children of God but are under the dominion of sin and Satan.

The distinction between creature and child emphasizes the necessity of a personal relationship with God through Christ. Ephesians 2:3 describes the unregenerate as "children of wrath," highlighting the spiritual separation that exists without salvation. Only through the new birth, as described in John 3:3, can one become part of God's family: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

The Privileges of Divine Sonship

Access to the Father

One of the greatest privileges of being a child of God is access to the Father. Hebrews 4:16 invites believers to "come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." This access is made possible through Christ, who serves as the mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5).

Inheritance in Christ

As children of God, believers are also heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ. Romans 8:17 declares, "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." This inheritance includes eternal life, the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, and the promise of future glorification.

Discipline from the Father

God's fatherhood also includes His loving discipline. Hebrews 12:6-7 teaches, "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons." Discipline is evidence of God's care, shaping believers into the image of His Son.

The Eternal Fatherhood and Its Implications

God's eternal fatherhood shapes how believers view their relationship with Him. It assures them of His unchanging love, faithfulness, and provision. As the Eternal Father, God remains steadfast in His care for His children, as seen in 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."

This eternal fatherhood also calls believers to live in a manner worthy of their high calling. Ephesians 5:1 exhorts, "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children." As children of God, believers are to reflect His character, pursuing holiness and love in their daily lives.

Conclusion

The doctrine of God as the Eternal Father encompasses His relationship within the Trinity and His unique bond with born-again believers. While all humanity is created by God, true sonship is reserved for those who receive Him through faith in Christ. This relationship brings unparalleled privileges, including access to God, an eternal inheritance, and the loving discipline of a Father.

God's fatherhood is not merely a theological concept but a living reality for those who are in Christ. It calls for a response of worship, trust, and obedience, as believers

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recognize the profound truth of being children of the Eternal Father. This understanding, rooted in Scripture and centered on the gospel, provides a foundation for a vibrant and meaningful relationship with the God of the universe.

CONCLUSION: THE MAJESTY OF GOD'S REVELATION AND THE INVITATION TO GO DEEPER

As we close this first step in our journey through the great doctrines of the faith, let your heart be captivated by the magnificence of what you have just considered. Through **general revelation**, God has painted His glory across the heavens and inscribed His law on the hearts of men. The vastness of creation proclaims His power, His wisdom, and His majesty. The whisper of conscience testifies to His holiness and justice. From the microscopic complexity of a single cell to the unmeasured expanse of the universe, everything declares, "The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1).

But do not stop here. General revelation is glorious, but it is not sufficient. It points us to the existence of God, but it cannot tell us how sinners like us can be reconciled to this holy, eternal, and all-powerful God. It leaves humanity "without excuse" (Romans 1:20), but it does not bring humanity to salvation. For that, we need **special**

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revelation—the Scriptures—and at the center of that revelation is the radiant, all-sufficient Person of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the pinnacle of God's revelation. The One who spoke the universe into existence and whose handiwork is displayed in every corner of creation is the same One who came in the flesh to redeem fallen humanity. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:1, 14). The heavens declare the glory of God, but the cross declares His love, His mercy, and His justice.

Do not linger only on the outskirts of God's revelation. Let what you have learned about His power and divine nature compel you to draw closer. Let the truths of His creation and your conscience drive you to the feet of Christ, who is the image of the invisible God, the Lamb slain for sinners, and the Redeemer of all who believe.

The next step in our study will take us to **Christology**, the doctrine of Christ. Here, we will behold the glory of Jesus as the eternal Son of God, the Creator, the Savior, and the coming King. We will explore the mystery of His incarnation, the depth of His suffering, and the triumph of His resurrection. We will see why Paul could declare, "For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9), and why John could fall at His feet as though dead, overcome by His majesty (Revelation 1:17).

But do not approach this lightly. The study of Christ is not mere theology—it is worship. To see Christ rightly is to be undone by His holiness and swept away by His love. It is to say with the Apostle Paul, "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord" (Philippians 3:8).

Will you take the next step? Will you open your heart to the One who holds all things together by the word of His power (Hebrews 1:3)? The God who revealed Himself in creation and conscience has spoken His final Word in His Son. "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son" (Hebrews 1:1-2).

The doctrine of Christ is the heart of our faith, the center of God's plan, and the fountain of all our hope. So press on, with eager minds and open hearts, to behold Him. Let this next step in your study not be merely an exercise in learning, but an encounter with the Savior who loved you and gave Himself for you. Lift your eyes to Christ, and let your soul be satisfied in Him.

The journey has only begun, and the best is yet to come. **Will you go further into the knowledge of God? Will you come to know Christ more deeply, more fully, and more joyfully? Let us press on together for the glory of God and the joy of our souls!**