

Lesson Introduction: Paterology - The Person of God (Father)

THE WORD THEOLOGY comes from the Greek word theos, meaning “God,” and logos, meaning “word” or “discourse;” hence, theology is a discourse about God. Theology is generally taken as a broad term covering the entire field of Christian belief (the study of Christ, the Holy Spirit, angels, etc.). Hence, the designation given to the study of God the Father is Theology Proper. Theology Proper is the study of the nature, existence, and attributes of God. Within this essential field of Christian belief via Systematic Theology, Paterology specifically explores the person and work of God the Father. (2 Timothy 2:15, See Moody Handbook of Theology: Systematic Theology | Theology Proper | The Doctrine of God (Father) “Paterology” – pages 181-197)

In a world of confusion about who God is—or if He even exists—believers must be rooted in the truth of God’s revelation of Himself as Father. This title is not just symbolic or poetic. It reflects the very nature of God in relation to His Son, His Spirit, His creation, and His people. (1 Corinthians 14:33; Colossians 1:15, 2:7; Genesis 1:1-2; John 1:1, 14...)

God the Father is not distant or indifferent. He is eternal, holy, loving, sovereign, and intimately involved with His creation. He reveals Himself through creation, Scripture, and most perfectly through His Son, Jesus Christ. By studying Paterology, we learn not only about the character of God the Father but also about His heart. His desire to be in covenant relationship with us and His role in redemption. (Psalm 34:18, 145:18; 2 Peter 3:8-10...)

Key Verse: John 17:3 – “Now this is eternal life: that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.” This verse captures the heart of Paterology: eternal life is not just a future hope, it is a present relationship with God the Father, made possible through Jesus Christ.

Lesson Outline: (Please click [blue hyperlinks](#) for quick access to the corresponding NASB Scripture references.)

The Existence of God:

[Scripture References](#)

(Psalm 90:2; Genesis 1:1; Ephesians 1:4; Titus 1:2; John 1:1-3; Revelation 1:8; 21:6, 22:13)

The Revelation of God:

[Scripture References](#)

(John 1:1-2,18; Romans 1:19-20; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Genesis 28:12, 37:5; Genesis 15:1, Ezekiel 8:3-4)

THEOLOGY PROPER: THE DOCTRINE OF GOD THE FATHER

The Attributes of God:

Scripture References

(Isaiah 6:3; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 1 John 4:8; John 3:16; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 96:13, 103:8; Ephesians 2:4-5; Lamentations 3:22-23; 1 Corinthians 1:9)

The Names of God:

Scripture References

(Exodus 3:14, 20:7; Psalm 8:1, 23:1; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 6:9)

Small Group Questions: *(Fact/Truth, Lesson, Doctrine, Application)*

1. Why should we believe the Doctrine of God (the Father)?
2. Which attribute of God do you find most comforting—or most challenging?
3. How do God's sovereignty and providence shape your response to suffering? How will you apply what you have learned about God the Father?
4. How does Scripture function as God's revelation to humanity, and how can it be trusted? *(Note: Include Scripture with your response)*
5. What is the Gospel Connection between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?

Heart-work: *What does it mean to call God “Father” in a biblical sense? (Share Scripture)*

When head knowledge
becomes heart knowledge
we can know and experience
the beauty of God's Word
and the gift of the gospel.

Next Week's Topic: *The Works of God the Father*
[Creation → Election → Redemption → Judgement]