

OLD UNION MINISTER'S SCHOOL

“The Fatherhood of God”

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Lesson Scripture – Ephesians 4:1-6 and 1 Peter 1:3-5

I want to call attention to Paul's statement: There is **“One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”** And to Peter's statement, **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again to a lively hope....”**

As I beginning this lesson I want to say that the **“Fatherhood of God”** is an **“eternal”** and **“immutable”** attribute.

The Bible reveals God as the **“Father”** (creator) and **“Lord”** (Controller) of the universe: Paul stated that, **“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”**; (Acts 17:24) Notice also that God is called **“Father”** in both the Old and New Testaments. (De. 32:6; Mt. 23:9) **It is no accident that in the gospel of Luke, Adam is called, “The son of God”.** (Luke 3:38)

The truth concerning **“God as Father”**, (masculine gender) as taught in the Holy Bible, is under attack. Some religious writers have even proposed that God should be called “Mother”, or possibly, “Mother/Father”. Even now, **efforts are being made to remove all masculine references to God from the Bible.** Of course the feminist movement, and others, delight in the promotion of this heresy.

There are those who argue that sexuality is not fundamental to our nature; and, that all forms of sexuality are equal. (male, female, heterosexual, homosexual, bi-sexual, lesbian etc) **I deny that foolishness!** I believe, based on the **“Word of the True and Living God”** that God gives life and breath to all mankind; (Acts 17:25) he gives to each one a sexual identity of either male or female. **“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”** (Ge. 1:27)

We are not unisex creatures! The term unisex suggests that there is basically no difference between male and female, and that the two genders are interchangeable. **I disagree with that foolishness also.** **We are not free to choose which sex we prefer to be.** When God forms the body and spirit of a person in the womb of her that is with child, he gives that body a sexual identity. (Ps. 139:13-16, Ec. 11:5, and Zec. 12:1) And, **all perversions of that God given sexuality, is a deliberate choice against the will of God, and not an involuntary chance of nature.** (See Rom. 1:21-28)

The push for, the so-called, equality of the sexes, along with the fear of being politically incorrect, has propelled many women to positions of authority; and, to the detriment of religion, Christianity in particular, it has also given rise to women Preachers, Pastors, Evangelist, and Missionaries. **This is absolutely contrary to the teachings of God's Word.**

In my opinion, it is because of this push for equality of the sexes, that the effort is now being made to remove the masculine gender references to God from the scripture.

Now, I readily concede that God has no sexual gender. He is neither male nor female. God is not a man, and God is not a woman; **"God is a spirit"** and God the Father does not have a human body. (John 4:24) However, in spite of his neuter sexuality, "God is indeed the Father of all".

Some Theological Reasons For Calling God Father

There are a number of good theological reasons why God should be recognized in the masculine gender and addressed as **"God the Father"**.

It was God himself who gave the inspired language, in which he reveals himself as both God and Father, and no one has the right to alter God's Word. How could anyone dare to challenge it!

Isaiah the Prophet said, **"But now, O Lord, thou art our Father, we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we are the works of thy hands."** (Is. 64:8)

God is called the **"Father of lights with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning"**. (James 1:17)

God fathered (created) the sun and the moon. There are variables in the amount of light they produce; both are eclipsed at times. But there is no variableness in God.

Even the angels, who "shouted for joy" when the foundation of the earth was laid are called "The sons of God"

(Job 37:4-7) The phrase, "the sons of God" in this passage comes from the Hebrew Benai Elohim - which means the offsprings of God.

God , The Father of The Universe

In order for us to understand God's relationship to creation and humankind, the Holy Spirit uses the term Father. The term is used as a metaphor. (figure of speech) Even though God is not a man, he is likened to a man in some things; fatherhood is one of them. This term is also an analogy. (a form of logical inference) The fatherhood of God and the fatherhood of Man are similar.

God, like an earthly father, is the first cause and the source of his offspring; or the result of "his" actions. This understanding makes it clear that **God is the father of the everything in the Universe** . The universe and the fullness thereof was God's idea, and

he is the source of them. ***"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."*** (Ge. 1:1)

God The Father of Mankind

Human Beings are not accidents of nature; neither are we the results of evolution. It was God who said, ***"Let us make man"...*** ***"so, God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he them; male and female created he them."*** (Ge. 1:26-27) ***"God that made the world, and all things that are therein,"...*** ***"hath made of one blood all nations of men" ...*** ***"for in him we live, and move, and have our being"; ...*** ***"for we are also his offspring"***. (Acts 17:24-28) God fathered mankind by originating the thought, and producing offsprings by his actions. In the genealogy of Jesus Christ, Luke says that Seth was the son of Adam, which was **"The Son of God"**.

God the Father of Israel

God **"fathered"** the Nation of Israel, in a corporate manner, rather than in a personal way. Israel was God's people, but ***"... they are not all Israel which are of Israel."*** (Rom. 9:6) He brought the nation into being and established it by a covenant relationship. He gave to them laws, by which to govern their conduct and behavior as the people of God; and the people, especially the Prophets, recognized God as the father of the Nation.

Isaiah said, ***"Thou, O Lord, art our father, our redeemer: thy name is from everlasting."*** (Is. 63:16) and again Isaiah said, ***"But now O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we are the works of thy hands"***. (Is. 64:8)

Once while rebuking Israel for their perverse and crooked ways, Moses asked, ***"Do ye thus requite (repay) the Lord, O foolish people and unwise? Is not he thy father that hath bought thee? Hath he not made thee, and established thee?"*** (De. 32:6)

The Eternal Father of The Eternal Son

When we get to the New Testament the analogy of God as Father is no longer a metaphor, it's a reality; and the **"masculine gender reference"** to God is no longer a concept, because **God has begotten a Son**. In the triune Godhead, the first person is **"Father"**, and because he is of un-originated origin, (from everlasting) he begat the second person, **"The Son"**. Thus, **God is the Father of the Historical Jesus, by means of the incarnation.**

Here is something that will blow your mind. God is "Eternal Father" and his son is "Eternal Son". In this case, the Father did not precede the son in time. Both are eternal; and they, the two of them, possess the same divine nature, and the same Holy and Eternal Spirit.

God's family began with His eternal Son: ***"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature;"*** (Col. 1:15) The Son existed prior to any other creature. In

fact, ***"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. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made."*** (John 1:1-3)

Jesus is the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:16) This does not mean that Jesus is the only one that has ever been born of God; but that Jesus is the only person ever born of God in that manner. God overshadowed a virgin: she conceived and gave natural birth to the Son of God. God once said to his son, ***"Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee."*** (Ps. 2:7) and more than once he said to the world; ***"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."*** (Mt. 17:5)

Father by Regeneration and Adoption

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten "US" again unto a lively hope...." (1 Peter 1:3) Yes, Jesus was born of God, but according to the Apostle Peter, he hath also begotten us. Who does us refer to? In general it means, Peter and everyone else that has been born again. This begetting (fathering) is unto a living hope, and to an inheritance, reserved in heaven; and it is made possible through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

The eternal God is indeed the father of all mankind, and by creation all are his offsprings. However, because of the "Fall of Man" none are by nature "the Children of God". We are born as creatures of God; and, **fallen creatures** at that. That is why Jesus said, ***"Verily, verily, I say unto you, ye must be born again"***. (John 3:5) All of mankind, are descendants from Adam, and have been born of a corruptible seed; meaning that our parents were sinners, and they brought forth sinners.

Jesus said, ye must be born again, (born from above) if you are going to see, or enter the kingdom of God. (John 3:3&5). This new birth, must be of an incorruptible seed, by the word of God, ... ***"And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."*** (1 Peter 1:23-25) The apostle James, states it this way: ***"Of his (God's) own will begat he us (became our father) with the word of truth,"*** (James 1:18)

Paul says, ***"For we are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."*** (Gal. 3:25) That is, we become God's children through faith in Jesus. John's gospel states that Jesus was in the world: that he came unto his own people, but they rejected him, as the Messiah Savior. But, to those who did acknowledge him as Savior, ***"To them gave him 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"***. (John 1:10-12)

This new birth experience produces a new creation. (2 Cor. 5:17) It also supplies evidence of salvation. ***"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself."*** (1 Jn. 5:10) ***"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:"*** (Rom. 8:16)

“Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God.” (1 Jn. 3:1) God the Father begets us by the Word: that seed is conceived, and produces offsprings. **These offsprings are “The Sons of God”.**

We are not the sons of God before the new birth, we are a fallen race, and offsprings of Satan, because Satan fathered sin. **“But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son... to redeem us that were under the law,** (the curse of death because of the transgression of the law) **that we might receive the adoption of sons.”** (Gal. 4:4-5)

“Because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba Father”. (Gal. 4:6) **God truly bonds with those who have been born again; and only those.**

God takes us from the family of Satan, and adopts us into his family. He also gives us heavenly citizenship because we have been born again, from above. **He treats us as one who had always been his own son, even making us heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Jesus; the only one who has always, and forever been his Son .** (Romans 8:16-17)