

Sermon Outline

GOD THE FATHER WHO LOVES US | Geoff Lin

Bible Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6 (p.1664)

The story so far: when 1 + 1 + 1 = 1

1. What we do and don't mean when we call God "Father" ...

- i. We DON'T mean that God is just like our earthly Fathers
- ii. We DON'T mean that God is male (as opposed to female)
- iii. We DO mean that God is perfectly "FatherLY"

2. The Fatherhood of God in the bible ...

i. God the Father loves God the Son

Jn 3:35 **The Father loves the Son** and has placed everything in his hands

Jn 14:30 I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, 31 but the world must learn that **I love the Father** and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

Q. Does that make the Father superior to the Son?

Jn 10:29 **My Father**, who has given them to me, **is greater than all**; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. 30 *I and the Father are one.*

Jn 5:16 So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. 17 In his defense Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working." 18 For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but **he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.** 19 Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because *whatever the Father does the Son also does.*"

Jn 17:1 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the hour has come. **Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.**"

The Athanasian Creed

But the divinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, their glory equal, their majesty coeternal.

Lk 22:39 Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. 40 On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." 41 He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, 42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/you-asked-can-i-pray-to-jesus/?amp>

ii. God the Father loves us His children

Eph 1:3 Praise be to **the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ**, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. **In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ**, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in **the One he loves**.

- the assurance of adoption

"Adoption is the central biblical description of how God saves. It emphasizes the quality of the new relationship that God brings us into, a relationship of having been made into his children. In explicitly Trinitarian terms, this means that God brings us into the relationship of sonship that has always been part of his divine life. **When we become sons of God, we are joined to the sonship of the incarnate Son ...**" (F Sanders, *Deep Things of God*, p.157)

"The fundamental reality in heaven and earth is the love that God the Father has for his Son. You and I and everyone and everything else exist because God loves his Son and wants others to know, love and glorify him too." (A Moody, *In Light of the Son*, p.11)

"The Father so enjoyed fellowship with his Son that he wanted to have the goodness of it spread out and communicated and shared with others. The creation was a free choice borne out of nothing but love" (M Reeves, *Delighting in the Trinity*, p.49)

3. Today's Trinitarian Take-away ...

i. God our Father delights to give good gifts to His children

Mt 7:9 Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

- "good gift" ≠ "everything we ask for"

ii. God our Father disciplines His children (and that's good too!)

Heb 12:7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? 8 If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline — then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.

- how you know you belong to God ...

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| For discussion: how might your perspective on hardship need to change this week? |
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