



new creation teaching ministry: tuesday night studies 2009

the things we firmly believe

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Study 3: The Person and work of the Father

Who is God the Father? What does He do?

The Context

The oneness and distinctiveness of the Trinity

The Father – initiator. The Son – mediator. The Holy Spirit – Agent of each work.

Creator

God creates! Genesis 1-2, Psalm 33:6-9.

Prior to creation, God was who he is i.e. the God of grace, the Redeemer, the Completer of all things (Ephesians 1:3-14).

Principles of creation:

- 1) God has created everything. Genesis 1:1-2:3.
- 2) God creates in wisdom. Psalm 104:24, Job 28:20-28.
- 3) God creates by His word. Genesis 1, Hebrews 11:3.
- 4) God creates all things good. Genesis 1, Ecclesiastes 3:11-14.
Good = functional, appropriate, pleasure giving.
- 5) God is Lord of heaven and earth. Luke 10:21, Isaiah 45:1-7.

God is responsible for everything that happens – He's got the whole world in his hands. Is He responsible for prosperity and disaster? Why? So that we may know God who knows us.

God is not the cause of moral evil – scripture is very clear that this comes from the human heart .
Matthew 15:19, Romans 1:21-25.

- 6) The creative acts of God are free acts of his will. Not reactive in the sense of fixing mistakes.
- 7) Human beings are the pinnacle of creation and have a special role within it. Genesis 1:26, Psalm 8.
- 8) God provides for His creation and sustains it. Matthew 6:25-34.
- 9) Creation has a beginning, not *in* time but *with* time, since time is a part of creation.
- 10) Creation has systems – times and seasons, it works in a particular way. Jeremiah 31:35, 36.

Father

(a) In the Old Testament:

Adam created as a son of God. Luke 3:38, Acts 17:24-28.

God is seen as Covenant-Father to the nation of Israel (son of God) and each Israelite as part of God's promises to bless them.

(b) In the New Testament:

i. God is the Father of Jesus Christ.

The Son reveals the Fatherhood of God. Matthew 11:27, John 1:14.

The Fatherhood of God is expressed in the Son. All that the Son does is what the Father is doing. The Son is obedient to the Father.

ii. God is the Father of human beings.

God creates human beings – He is our Father, we are sons – we have a capacity for response, love and obedience.

iii. God is the Father of redemption.

Redemption – the work of the cross, planned before time, to 'bring many sons to glory'. Hebrews 2:9-10.

Bringing glory to God is ultimate sonship.

Jesus Christ is the means of redemption, he is the means of sonship. This is the only way we can know God as Father!

Redeemer

God has a goal for creation – to bring us to glory. We have to be redeemed for this to be a reality.

Old Testament: Israel redeemed from Egypt.

Redemption is not just for Israel but for the whole world. Genesis 12:2-3, Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:19-20.

King

Psalm 47:2

Kingdom of God = the rule of God over his creation. This doesn't change no matter what is going on in the world.

Our rebellion against God brings division and friction into the world. Psalm 2 brings a right view of God's power in our rebellion.

The ultimate 'Kingdom of God' consists of those captured by grace who submit to the Lordship of God.

Kingship and Fatherhood are intimately linked:

Kingship without Fatherhood can be severe.

Fatherhood without Kingship could be weak.

Jesus secures the kingdom in the cross and resurrection. By grace he secures us, we are in his kingdom.

The Kingdom will come in fullness on the day of the Lord – the ultimate defeat of all evil.