



# Systematic Theology



# Systematic Theology

**Session 12: PATEROLOGY:**

*The Study of God the Father*



# THE NEED FOR PATEROLOGY

- Often our understanding of God the Father gets lumped in with what we understand about God, united in his persons
- While there is significant overlap with Theology Proper, we tend to ignore the fact that the first person of the Trinity is called Father
- In studying the persons of the Trinity, we emphasize the Son and the Spirit, but often exclude the Father.
- We need to understand the “full counsel of God” regarding what he reveals about Himself.



# THE FATHER IN UNION WITH THE TRINITY

- Scripture identifies three distinct persons in the Trinity; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- While each person is of the same essence and equality in the divine nature, each person is also distinct from the other persons.
- The Father is a distinct person of the Trinity who fulfills distinct roles and functions as the Father



# ATTRIBUTES OF THE FATHER

- The Father's Greatness:
  - Perfection (Matthew 5:48)
  - Eternality (1 John 1:2)
  - Omniscience (Matthew 10:29)
- The Father's Goodness:
  - Source of Life (John 5:26-27)
  - Merciful (Luke 6:36)
  - Forgiving (Ephesians 4:32)
  - Reveals Salvation Truth- (Matt. 16:17)



# RELATIONSHIP WITH TRINITY

- One of the things that the personhood of the three members of the Trinity teaches us is relationship
- Each person of the Trinity has a specific role in the relationship they have with the other members of the Trinity



# RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SON

- Eternally Generates the Son (John 3:16; 5:26)
- Loves the Son (John 3:35; 15:9; 17:26)
- Sends the Son (John 3:16-17; Romans 8:3)
  - Reveals His Glory in the Son (John 1:14)
  - Bears Witness to the Son (Matt. 3:17; Mark 9:7; John 8:18)
  - Commands the Son in what He Must Speak (John 12:49-50)
  - Glorifies the Son (John 12:28-32)



# RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SPIRIT

- Sends the Spirit (John 14:15-17; 26; Gal. 4:6)
- Instructs the Spirit (John 16:13-14)
- Responds to the Spirit (Rom. 8:26-27)





# RELATIONSHIP WITH THE REDEEMED

- Creates and Causes our Existence (1 Cor. 8:6)
- Draws the Redeemed to Himself through Christ (John 6:44-46; 65)
- Reveals Himself to the Redeemed through the Son (John 1:18; Heb 1:2-3a)
- Adopts the Redeemed as His Children (Ephesians 1:5; Rom. 8:15; Gal. 3:26; 4:4-7)



# RELATIONSHIP WITH THE REDEEMED

- Protects the Redeemed- (John 10:29)
- Provides for Creation, especially the Redeemed (Matt. 5:45; 6:8, 11, 26, 31-32)
- Blesses the Redeemed in Christ (Eph. 1:3)
- Hears the Prayers of the Redeemed (Matt. 7:11; Rom. 8:17; 2 Tim. 2:13)
- Dwells with the Redeemed (John 14:23-24; Rev. 3:21)



# Systematic Theology