

BIBLE CENTER CHURCH

ARTICLES OF FAITH SERIES

[All Scripture quotes from the *New American Standard Bible 1995 edition* unless otherwise noted.]

We do not currently have in our Articles of Faith a statement about God the Father. The committee thought this was an oversight which ought to be corrected. The following statement is our attempt to explain what we believe about God the Father.

We believe the Bible teaches that the term “Father” describes the relationship between God and His Son, Jesus Christ (Matthew 3:17) as well as His people Israel (Exodus 4:22) and those whom He has called to Himself by faith (Galatians 3:26). As God’s children, we expect His discipline (Hebrews 12:9). There is a sense in which as Creator, all mankind is His offspring (Acts 17:29), but not all display His character (John 8:44). He is also described as the Father in heaven indicating both location and supremacy (Matthew 6:9). It was the Father’s will that salvation be provided through the Son (Psalm 2:7-9; Ephesians 1:3-6; John 5:37). The Father determines the times and seasons for the establishment of His “end time” kingdom (Acts 1:7).

It will be important for you to look up the following Scriptures in their context in order for you to understand what is being affirmed in this statement and perhaps to suggest improvements or teaching ideas for these truths.

1. *In what way is God the Father of all mankind (Acts 17:29; Genesis 1:27)?*
2. *Is everyone a child of God (John 8:44; 1:12)? Why not?*
3. *In what way could Israel claim God as their Father (Exodus 4:22)?*
4. *How are believers today children of God (Galatians 3:26; John 1:12)?*
5. *What is the historical revelation of the relationship between God and His Son, Jesus Christ (2 Samuel 7:14; Matthew 3:17)?*
6. *What is the difference between experiencing discipline from a loving Father (Hebrews 12:9) and wrath from a just God (Nahum 1:2)?*
7. *What are we saying about God when we call Him “Our Father in heaven” (Matthew 6:9)?*

8. *How is the Father's will in salvation unique (Psalm 2:7-9; Ephesians 1:3-6; John 5:37)?*

9. *How is His role regarding the end time like an earthly father regarding a wedding (Acts 1:7)?*