

God Talk

THE COMPLEXITIES OF CALLING GOD “FATHER”

Since the time that Jesus taught his disciples to do so, the Body of Christ has addressed God as Father. In recent decades, some pastors, scholars, and lay people have questioned the exclusivity and even the validity of this language.

Is human language ever capable of correctly describing the majesty and mystery of God?

What is the difference between naming the triune God and metaphorically describing the divine?

How should Scripture and Tradition inform our theological language?

What did “fatherhood” signify in the first-century Greco-Roman world?

What are the theological and pastoral implications of using gendered language for God?

How does the Christian canon appropriate and also modify those meanings of paternity?

Reading such texts as *The Promise of the Father*, *God as Father in Luke-Acts*, *Reimagining God: The Case for Scriptural Diversity*, *Beyond God the Father: Toward a Philosophy of Women’s Liberation*, *Speaking the Christian God*, and *The Battle for the Trinity*, we will engage with and contribute to this important conversation in order to gain a better understanding of the God we serve and how we—even in our finitude—can call upon God’s name.

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY 2:20 - 3:15
QUESTIONS? CONTACT PROFESSOR AMY PEELER

