

Excerpt from: Paul Vitz, Author - *Faith of the Fatherless*

So I will develop an undeveloped thesis of Freud's. In his essay on Leonardo da Vinci, Freud remarks that "psycho-analysis, which has taught us the intimate connection between the father complex and belief in God, has shown us that the personal god is logically nothing but an exalted father, and daily demonstrates to us how youthful persons lose their religious belief as soon as the authority of the father breaks down."

This interesting observation requires no assumptions about unconscious sexual desires for the mother, or even about presumed universal competitive hatred focused on the father. Instead, Freud makes the simple and easily understandable claim that once a child or youth is disappointed in or loses respect for his earthly father, belief in a heavenly father becomes impossible.

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