

3. Generation and procession consistent with equality.

Cf. Psa. 2:7

Explanation:

- (1) Eternal generation does not speak of creation, but the Father's communication of Himself to the Son.
- (2) Not a commencement of existence, but an eternal relation to the Father, there never having been a time when the Son did not exist as God with the Father.
- (3) Not an act of the Father's will, but as internal necessity of the divine nature, - so that the Son is no more dependent upon the Father than the Father is dependent upon the Son.
- (4) Indicates that although the Persons of the Godhead are equal, they stand to each other in an order of personality, office and operation

Priority is not necessarily superiority. The possibility of an order need not involve inequality.

VI. Inscrutable, yet not Self-contradictory, This Doctrine Furnishes the Key to all Other Doctrines

1. The mode of this triune existence is inscrutable. This is because there are no analogies to it in our finite experience
2. The doctrine is not self-contradictory. We assert simply that the same God who is one with respect to his essence is three with respect to the internal distinctions of that essence. The possibility of this cannot be denied, except by assuming that the human mind is in all respects the measure of the divine
3. The doctrine of the Trinity has important relation to other doctrines.
 - (1) It is essential to any proper theism.
Anti-trinitarianism almost necessarily makes creation indispensable to God's perfection
 - (2) It is essential to any proper revelation
 - (3) It is essential to any proper redemption
 - (4) It is essential to any proper model for human life.

THE PERSONS OF THE TRINITYI. God the FatherA. His Relationships1. Father of the Lord Jesus Christ

This relationship is definitely announced, but nowhere clearly explained. It is fundamental within the Divine Being and has always existed.

- (1) Plain statement of Scripture
2 Cor 1:3; 11:31; Gal. 4:4; Eph 1:3; Rom. 15:6; 1 Pet 1:3
- (2) The Son is said to have been begotten of the Father.
John 1:14,18; 3:16; Col. 1:15; 1 John 4:9.
- (3) The Father affirms this relationship.
Matt. 3:17; 17:5; Luke 9:35; Heb. 1:5-10.
- (4) Christ affirms this relationship
John 5:17-26; 8:54; 14:12; 17:5; Luke 2:49

2. Father of the nation Israel

Ex. 4:22; Deut. 32:6; Isa. 64:8; Mal. 1:6; 2:10

3. Father of all who believe in Christ

John 1:12; Gal. 3:26; Eph. 2:18,19; Rom. 8:14-17; 1 John 3:1; Eph. 4:6.

NOTE: This relationship does not include all mankind. The so-called "universal fatherhood of God" is wholly unsupported by Scripture. Acts 17:29; 1 Cor. 8:6; John 8:44; Eph. 2:2,3.