

the delight which God takes in all his works. He loves his own handiwork, Ps. 104³ "The glory of the Lord shall endure for ever: the Lord shall rejoice in his works." This love of complacency embraces the whole creation, material, rational & animate. The reason why he has this love of complacency is that his handiwork reflects his own glory. He cannot but love himself, since he can't but love that which is the manifestation of his own perfections. This love of complacency is particularly true in regard to rational beings, because they not only reflect his glory, but reflect his image.

b. The love of benevolence. This is the love of God which is not contrained by complacency in the object, but is sovereignly exercised to the end that good may be bestowed upon the object, & to the end of making the object worthy of his complacency & delight. The most conspicuous example of this is God's electing & redeeming love to lost men. There is in lost men that can be regarded as contraining the love of God. It is explainable only in terms of the unsearchable riches of his own goodness & pity, EX DONATE & FLUIT DONORE. Turretine. This "love" which is not contrained by necessity inherent in the divine perfections, but he sov. & free exercise of the resources of his own unsearchable goodness. It is important to distinguish between the love of benevolence & the love of complacency. The latter is the feeling of delight that is necessarily contrained by qualities in the object. He could not but love his own handiwork as it came from his own hands, because he is love, & loves himself, because that is the necessary & inherent movement of his being & perfection. We don't have this in the case of God's electing & redeeming love. We immediately impinge upon the sov. & good pleasure of God in this connection, Eph 1³⁻¹⁴. However, this love of God's benevolence as it is exemplified in this electing & redeeming love seems that it became also the love of complacency, in the case of the elect & redeemed, they are restored by God's grace those qualities which constrain the love of complacency. In 14²¹⁻²³ "... he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father." The love of believers to Christ is that which constrains God's love of complacency to them. They are