

Trinity – Lesson 2

Review of previous week's Key Concepts¹:

-Eternal Relation of Origin-Distinguishes how each Person is related to another (**Father**-Paternity, begotten of _____, **Son**-Filiation, _____ of the Father, **Spirit**-Spiration, _____ from Father and Son). This phrase is synonymous with “modes of subsistence” and “personal properties”.

-Subsistence-Another way of referring to a divine Person. The One, simple divine _____ subsists or exists in three Persons.

Lesson 2-Eternal Generation

In Scripture, Jesus is called the “only _____ Son” (μονογενής) of God (John 1:14, 18, 3:16, 18, 1 Jn. 4:9).

What does it mean that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God? There are different ways you could answer this.

-You could say that Jesus is a son by _____-a son by grace

Heresy Alert: _____-Jesus became the divine son of God in time by the grace of adoption. The Father adopted Jesus to be His only son during His earthly life (some place it at his baptism, while others place it at the resurrection). Jesus was a only a man who became divine by grace.

-You could say that Jesus is a son by _____-a son by grace

Heresy Alert: _____-Jesus was the first and greatest of all God's creative works. God created the son ex nihilo. Jesus is above and greater than all creation and has been given the gift of divinity by the Father.

-You could say that Jesus is a Son by eternal generation (_____-) a Son by nature

“All the sound and orthodox writers have unanimously declared for the eternal generation and Sonship of Christ in all ages.”-John Gill

The Son is not made a son but from eternity has been the Son. The generation of the Son is _____; it had no beginning. God is eternal; He has no beginning. Therefore, the generation of the Son did not happen in time but is an eternal generation.

A son comes _____ (is generated by) a father. Eternal generation means the Son is from the Father.

¹ Most definitions are adapted from glossary of Barret's book, *Simply Trinity*.

Human generation takes place in time because we are creatures (we have a starting point-that's part of what it means to be a creature). We cannot look at generation amongst creation and then try to apply that to the Creator. We also cannot look out our sonship with God and think it is similar to Christs-we are sons by _____; He is a Son by _____.

"The generation within God is unlike any other; it is not susceptible to the limitations of time. The Son's filial identity has no duration or succession of moments; it is timeless. Everlasting in nature, there never was a time when the Son was not begotten from the Father."-Barret

Why must we hold this view?

1. **Because the very nature of God the _____ is at stake**-If the Son was not eternally the Son, then the Father was not eternally the Father
2. **Because the very nature of _____ is at stake**-If the Son was not generated from the Father, He would not be One with the Father in essence; therefore, He would not truly be God.

The doctrine of eternal generation is the doctrine that upholds the Son as God and yet distinct from the Father.

"Eternal generation not only distinguishes the Son but ensures His equality...He is eternally from the Father, which is why He is called Son."-Barrett

Why is this doctrine good news for us?

1. **It overwhelms us with God's _____**

Consider the _____ of your salvation and the love of God for you in sending His only begotten Son for your redemption (Hebrews 1-2, 1 John 3:1)

2. **It gives _____**

In our _____ (1 John 4:14-15)

In this life of _____ (Romans 8:31-32)

In the _____ of eternal life (1 Thessalonians 5:9-11)