

Trinity

Review of Key Concepts:

-Eternal Relation of Origin-Distinguishes how each Person is related to another (**Father**-Paternity, begotten of **none**, **Son**-Filiation, **begotten** of the Father, **Spirit**-Spiration, **proceeding** 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 **essence** subsists or exists in three Persons.

-Eternal Generation-The Son of God has from eternity been generated (begotten-come from) from the Father's essence. Therefore, the Son has no beginning and possesses all the divine essence.

Lesson 3 - Eternal Generation defended by Scripture

We have defined and established eternal generation as the right way to understand the Son and His relationship with the Father. Now let us see how this doctrine is defended by Scripture and by church history.

Defense from Scripture-While the phrase is not mentioned in Scripture the concept is:

-The _____ of _____ - Matthew 17:1-8

God the Father declares that Jesus is His Son

God the Father calls the disciples to listen to the Son (over and above the greatest of OT prophets-Giving the Son an _____ that God alone possesses)

-Scripture tells us to _____ the Son just as we _____ the Father - John 5:23

-Jesus is called _____ - John 1:1, 14

-The _____ of _____ is said to dwell in Jesus - Colossians 1:19, 2:9

-Jesus claims to be a _____ in the _____ of the Father from eternity - John 17:5

-The _____ of the Father is ascribed to the Son - John 5:26

-Jesus claims to be the God _____ in the OT - John 8:58

-Jesus claims to be _____ with the Father - John 10:30

-Jesus is _____ all things - Colossians 1:17

Scripture affirms that Jesus is God, yet distinct from the Father as His Son. Eternal generation supports these conclusions as it affirms Jesus is eternal (God) and yet from the Father's essence (generation). The Father/Son relationship has _____ existed.

What about those “problem” passages for this doctrine?

-Psalm 2:7, Hebrews 1:5, 5:5 - Two ways to understand these verses:

1. These refer to the _____ display of Christ as Son of God through the resurrection and ascension

Paul mentions Psalm 2:7 in connection with the resurrection of Jesus Christ in Acts 13:33. By raising Christ from the dead, the Father was bringing forth Christ publicly in _____ before all as Redeemer and Mediator.

2. These verses are not problems passages but _____ for eternal generation. These verses mention generation (begotten) and since God is _____, there is no past or future, God always resides in “Today”-in the present.

“It is now my conviction that the begetting spoken of in Psalm 2 and Hebrews 1 is not an event that takes place in time...It is reasonable to conclude that the begetting spoken of there is also something that pertains to eternity rather than a point in time.”¹

-Proverbs 8:22 - Two things to keep in mind

1. Literary _____

“For it is written, ‘The Lord created me a beginning of His ways, for His works;’ since, however, these are proverbs, and it is expressed in the way of proverbs, we must not expound them nakedly in their first sense...the Lord himself has taught us in the Gospel according to John, ‘These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs, but the time comes when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but openly.’ (John 16:25) Therefore it is necessary to unfold the sense of what is said, and to seek it as something hidden, and not nakedly to expound as if the meaning were spoken, ‘plainly,’ lest by a false interpretation we wander from the truth.”²

2. The focus is on “_____”-not on nature

“Thus it is said of Him, with respect unto His future incarnation and work of mediation, that the Lord possessed Him in the beginning of His way, before His works of old; that He was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was: Proverbs 8:22-23).”³

¹ [Reexamining the Eternal Sonship of Christ](#)-Grace To You

² “Second Discourse Against the Arians” by Athanasius

³ “Christology” by John Owen