

March 1, 2020

## God's Intra-Trinitarian Love

**1 John 4:8, 16** ...God is love...

- We have learned that God's love is an absolute attribute that describes the relational context of the three Divine Persons of God.
- God's love does not exist in isolation from His other attributes but functions in tandem with all of His attributes.
- **Questions about the Righteousness of God?**
- God's love as an absolute attribute is called His intra-trinitarian love. God's love is the relational love that exists within the Godhead among the three Divine Persons of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- God's love is His relational love that characterizes His inner life as a Society of mutual joy and peace in which there is absolute satisfaction without any taint of strife or disagreement whatsoever.
- Three Divine Persons relate to one Another to carry out Their respective roles (Eph. 1:3-14).

- In order to have a clearer understanding of God's intra-trinitarian love, we must look at the relationship of Jesus to the Father and the Father's relationship to Him.

- To begin, we must remember who Jesus is:

**John 1:1** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...*

**John 1:14** *And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us...*

**Col 1:15** *He is the image of the invisible God...*

**Col 2:9** *...in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form...*

**Heb 1:3** *He is the radiance of [God's] glory and the exact representation of [God's] nature...*

**John 14:9** *He who has seen Me has seen the Father...*

- And what of the Father have we seen in Jesus?
- We have seen the visible display of God's intra-trinitarian love, the love between the Father and the Son by the power of the Spirit.
- We also have seen that the Son's love for the Father is expressed in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- God's intra Trinitarian love is the very reason He loves us and has given His Son for us so that in the Son and through the Son the Trinitarian love may be perfectly communicated to us to be given to us in our salvation as His gift of love, the Son's love for the Father and the Father's love for the Son.

- Perhaps the essence of God's intra-Trinitarian love as displayed in the life of Jesus is His condescension, His self-giving to the Father's will even to the cost of his own life (Phil. 2:6-8).
- This is a love that was filled with joy and peace at the prospect of serving His Father's interests alone being completely dependent upon the Father by the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- This is a love that sets aside the use of His Divine prerogatives to become one with humanity to live under the burden of the curse so that, for His love for His Father, Jesus would take the hideous curse upon Himself because it was the Father's will so that the Father would be glorified.