

## 2Cor 1.3—The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

### How is the Father the God of Jesus Christ?

- I. This is not to be taken in an absolute sense, but in a relational sense, because Scripture also teaches that the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are of the same essence and but one God—which we affirm as the doctrine of the Trinity.
  - A. When Scripture speaks of the Father being the *God* of Christ (Rom 15.6; 2Cor 11.31), it's speaking of a relationship which exists between them only for the purpose of accomplishing our redemption.
  - B. In order to be our Mediator (1Tim 2.5), Christ had to take on human nature and assume a position of dependence under the Father *as His God* (see Heb 10.7; Mk 15.34; Jn 20.17). Thus it's only with respect to His role as our Mediator in our nature that the Father is the *God* of our Saviour (1Tim 2.5).
- II. We therefore affirm both that Christ is God, of one substance with the Father, *and* that Christ became subject to the Father as His God in the role of our Mediator.

### How is Christ the Son of God?

- I. The testimony of Scripture everywhere is that Christ is the Son of God, Lk 1.35; Mk 3.11; Jn 1.34; 1.49; 11.4; Mt 27.54; Jn 20.31; 1Cor 1.19. But *how* is He His Son?
  - A. Some say He is God's Son because He is our Mediator. But Lk 3.38 teaches that He was the Son of God eternally. He was appointed our Mediator *because* He was God's Son.
  - B. Others say He is God's Son by virtue of His incarnation. But according to Lk 1.35 the incarnation was the *proof* of His Sonship, not its cause.
  - C. Others say He is God's Son because of His resurrection. But according to Rom 1.4 His resurrection did not make Him the Son, but *declared* Him to be so already.
  - D. And others have taught that Christ inherited His Sonship by His exaltation (Heb 1.4). But Phil 2.9-10 says the name He inherited is not Son, but Jesus as Lord.
- II. Thus we conclude that Christ's Sonship to the Father is prior to and independent of His incarnation, Rom 8.3; Gal 4.4. His

is an eternal Sonship which serves as the *foundation* of all that He did for us as Mediator and Surety.

### How is this truth the ground of all our comfort?

- I. Because it's by this relationship to Christ as Father that God comes to be our Father.
  - A. Christ's death as a Son in our place reconciles us to God *as our Father*, Jn 20.17; Eph 4.6; 5.1
  - B. Without Christ's mediation God remains our Judge; but by it God becomes our Father and we His sons, Mt 6.9.
- II. Because of our union with Christ.
  - A. Faith in Christ is a *uniting* grace, making us *one* with Christ, 1Cor 6.17; placing us *in Christ*, 2Cor 5.17; Rom 8.1
  - B. And if we are one with Christ, the Son of God, then we also are sons of God, who is therefore our Father, Heb 2.11.
  - C. Thus we have a eternally secure sonship to God. We can never be less than His sons and He can never be less than our Father because we are one with Christ His Son.
- III. Because we have as much of a title to the mercies of a Father and all the effects of a Father's love as Christ has.
  - A. His Sonship is by nature and ours is by grace and adoption; but notwithstanding, we can expect to enjoy all that He enjoyed from the Father and, likewise, we can expect to suffer all that He suffered as a Son.
  - B. Thus whatever we need, if we can find that Christ had it, then we may seek the Father for it. And if we can find that Christ suffered what we're suffering, then we can know that our suffering isn't inconsistent with our sonship and the Father's love.
- IV. Because it assures us that if we walk in the same way that Christ did (Jn 8.29) the Father will be pleased with us as sons.
  - A. Christ left a pattern for our footsteps, 1Pet 2.21, and we can follow them with confidence, assured of the Father's smile.
- V. Is God your God and Father by being the God and Father of your Saviour?
  - A. Then give praise to your Saviour because everything you enjoy as a Christian is second-hand from Him. Christ has all from the Father and you have all from Christ, 1Cor 3.21-23
  - B. Also, bless Christ for taking on your human nature; and bless God for being the God and Father of Christ so that He might become the God and Father of you!