The Providence of God   Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 10

1. THE FOUNDATION OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE: Our confidence in the goodness of God's providence is grounded in our _____ in _____.

   > For all creatures are so completely in his hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved. (Lord's Day 10)

   a. The doctrine of God's providence is not just about God's _____. It is always and inseparably about God's _____ for us as his adopted children.

   b. God is our Father both as our _____ and as our _____ in Christ.

   > For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15)

2. THE EXTENT OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE: God's providence extends to _____.

   a. God's providence is not just about his ability to _____ _____ _____ the world, but about his upholding of all things – "heaven and earth and all creatures."

   b. Consider, for example, Psalm 147.

   > He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes. (Psalm 147:16)

   c. Because God is one, God's sovereignty and _____ are never apart from the Son – and therefore never apart from God's love for you _____ _____.

   > And he [Christ] is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (Colossians 1:17)

3. LIFE WITHIN GOD'S PROVIDENCE: The Catechism teaches us that God's providence is important for every circumstance of life.

   a. Patient in adversity: God's _____ and _____ are perfect, and so we can be patient even in times of mysterious suffering.

   > He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. (Psalm 147:3)

   b. Thankful in prosperity: we ought to have a prayerfully Godward orientation in _____ _____.

   > He makes peace in your borders; he fills you with the finest of the wheat. (Psalm 147:14)

   c. Confident in the future: we trust that _____ will separate us from God's love; that faith is personal, confident, _____, and shared.

   > I will not execute my burning anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath. (Hosea 11:9)

   d. Therefore: it is good to _____ _____ _____ _____ _____!