

My God and Father**Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 9**

1. A GLORIOUS DOCTRINE: When we confess God as _____, we also confess the doctrine of God's _____. Two truths are held together in this confession of faith:
- As Creator, God _____ comprehensively sovereign over and _____ with his creation.
 | ...who works all things according to the counsel of his will (Ephesians 1:11b)
 - God is sovereign, not as an abstract or distant _____, but with a _____ and particular concern for his _____: "my God and Father."
 | 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. A BEAUTIFUL PROMISE: Because of that _____ with Christ, we are promised the _____ of God's providence for us.
- God will provide "whatever I need." Everything _____ comes from God, and therefore we ought to have a prayerfully Godward orientation in _____ (Psalm 104, for example).
 - This involves mystery: "whatever adversity he sends me." We are free to acknowledge – to _____ and to _____ – that even with the promise of God's providence, we remain in a "vale of tears" (Psalm 23 or 88, for example).
 - God works all things together _____.
 | And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:29)
- | For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (Romans 8:18)
3. A SECURE IDENTITY: This is a deeply _____ and _____ confession of faith.
- Your _____ identity is a _____ that you are called to receive and _____ in by faith: God is your Father for the sake of Christ his Son.
 | ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:31-32)
 - Our life together is intended to _____ us – in times of temptation, suffering, and spiritual doldrums – that we must re-member our _____.
 - Say to each other: _____ !