

The 1689 Confession of Faith; Chapter 2, Paragraph 3 – “Of God and the Holy Trinity”,
Message # 65 – “Personal Relations in God”, Presented in the Adult Sunday
School Class by Pastor Paul Rendall, on February 7th, 2021.

Paragraph 3 – In this divine and infinite Being there are three subsistences, d) the Father, the Word or Son, and Holy Spirit, of one substance, power, and eternity, each having the whole divine essence, e) yet the essence undivided: the Father is of none, neither begotten nor proceeding; the Son is f) eternally begotten of the Father; the Holy Spirit g) proceeding from the Father and the Son; all infinite, without beginning, therefore but one God, who is not to be divided in nature and being, but distinguished by several peculiar relative properties and personal relations; which doctrine of the Trinity is the foundation of all our communion with God, and comfortable dependence on him.

d) 1st John 5: 7; Matthew 28: 19; 2nd Corinthians 13: 14; e) Exodus 3: 14; John 14: 11;

1st Corinthians 8:6; f) John 1:14,18; g) John 15:26; Gal 4: 6)

John 14: 15-18 – “If you love Me, keep My commandments.” “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” “I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”

Now, you can see here a clear distinction of Persons in the Godhead who are being mentioned here. And even their Properties as Persons of the Godhead are being hinted at. The Father will be prayed to by the Son, but it will be fully in accord with the Father’s Divine Purpose to give the Spirit. The Son who is praying to the Father is one with Him in that Divine Purpose because He is of the same Essence and Substance, and knows that He has been begotten of the Father and sent by the Father. And together the Father and the Son will send the Holy Spirit, for this is what it means when Jesus says – “I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”

Jesus, if He were not the Divine Son, could not come in the Person of the Spirit unless He were of one substance and essence with the Spirit as well. And neither the Son nor the Spirit is in any sense inferior to the Father, but their activity as Persons within the Godhead is particular to them in terms of the glory given to each Person. This glory of each particular Person in the Godhead is to be gloried in by each and every Christian, and no Person is to be seen as superior or inferior to another. Gloria Patria – Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the Beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end, Amen, Amen!

John 16: 5-15 – “But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’” “But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.” “Nevertheless I tell you the truth.” “It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.” “And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.” “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.” “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.” “All

things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.”

The Lord Jesus was going to go away to Him who sent Him, and this was bringing sorrow to the hearts of the disciples. But He tells them that it would be to their advantage if He did go, for if He did not depart, the Spirit would not come to them. When He departed to the Father, He would send the Spirit. This shows that He must be God, equal to the Father, for a mere man or even a lesser form of God could not send the Holy Spirit, another Person of the Divine Trinity to do what He would do for them; that is, guide them into all the truth, speak of what He has heard as a Divine Person of the Godhead, from the Father and the Son. His not speaking on His own authority (not speaking “of Himself”, or “by Himself”) is not His subordinating Himself to the Father and the Son, but rather fulfilling their combined purpose as Persons in the Godhead in the way of agreed upon acting. Only God Himself could take of what was God the Son’s and declare it to them. And all things that the Father has, were also the Son’s and were formally declared here to be given to the disciples through the Spirit’s working in their hearts and minds. This truth we should always glory in.