

Lord's Day 9; I John 3

MY GOD AND MY FATHER

I. The idea.

- A. The name "Father" describes God in the closest relationship.
- B. God is eternally Father within the Trinity, without beginning and without ending.
- C. The second evidence of begetting is the Triune God begetting the Mediator.
 - 1. This brings outside of God what (Fatherhood) is within Himself.
 - 2. This is also eternal, for it is a part of God's eternal counsel to beget a Son outside of Himself (Psalm 2:7).
- D. Of whom is God Father? Who are God's children?

II. The reality is that we are children of God and He is our Father.

- A. How then does God become the spiritual Father of His adopted children?
 - 1. First, He predestinated us unto the adoption (Eph. 1:5).
 - 2. Then, God sent His Son that we might receive the adoption of sons (Gal. 4:4,5; II Peter 1:4).
 - 3. Then God's Son gave His Spirit to testify with our spirits that we are God's children (Rom. 8:15,16).
 - 4. Our adoption is fully realized when we are glorified in heaven (Romans 8:23).
- B. Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed on us that we should be called the children of God (I John 3:1)!!
 - 1. God's Fatherhood of me is an extension of His Fatherhood of Christ.
 - 2. The greatness of this love is because ...

III. There are implications which arise from this relationship.

- A. Our Father provides us with all things necessary for our body and soul (Matt. 6:32; Phil. 4:19).
- B. I can rely on my Father in every circumstances of life.
 - 1. As children we can trust Him completely; we can rely on Him so entirely that we have no doubt.
 - 2. As children we must honor Father when He chastens His beloved children (Heb. 12:6-10).
 - 3. The faith which rests in God sees our heavenly Father as both able and willing to work all for our good.
- C. As earthly fathers, let us learn.