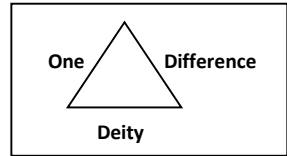


### 3. HOW DO THE FATHER AND THE SON RELATE?

#### INTRODUCTION

- there is 1 God... in 3 persons... each person is fully God



#### Nicene Creed of 381 AD

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, **the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.** Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### 1. THE PRIORITY OF THE FATHER

- (a) The Father has priority because eternally he is Father of the Son
- (b) The Father is generous to the Son (see John 17)
  - v2.
  - vv2,6,24.
  - v4.
  - v8
  - vv11-12.
  - vv22-24.

**(c) the Father CAN be generous because he has PRIORITY**

- John 17:6-7
- John 5:26 – “For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.”
- Matthew 11:25-27 – “... All things have been handed over to me by my Father.”
- Other key “giving” texts: Psalms 2 & 110, Daniel 7, John 5:26, 6:25-71.

**(d) the Father SENDS the Son**

- John 17:3, 8, 18, 21, 23, 25.

**(e) the Father’s will is to be done**

- Matthew 9:9-10 – “Your kingdom come, Your will be done”
- John 6:38 – “For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me”
- Also: John 4:34, 5:23-24,30,36-38, 6:44, 7:28-29, 8:16-18,42

**(f) The Father is generous because he LOVES the Son**

- John 17:24

**(g) Application: the Father is in charge – it’s humbling... and it’s wonderful**

## 2. THE OBEDIENCE OF THE SON

### (a) the Son is eternally the obedient Son of the Father

**\*\* GOD the Son.  
God the SON. \*\***

### (b) the Son obeys & submits to His Father who is His Head – because He loves Him

- John 17:1
- John 17:4
- John 15:10, “... just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love...”

### (c) Some other relevant texts

- John 14:31 - “I do as the Father has commanded me.”
- John 14:28 – “the Father is greater than I.”
- 1 Corinthians 15:28 – “When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.”
- 1 Corinthians 11:3 – “Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.”
- Philippians 2:6-11

### (d) Application: authority and submission are good things

- Our culture disagrees! (and so do our hearts!)
- Submission to...
  - God – eg. Ex 20
  - The government - Rom 13:1-7, 1 Peter 2:13-15
  - Church leaders – Hebrews 13:7
  - Wives and husbands - Eph 5:22-33, Col 3:18, Titus 2:3-5, 1 Pet 3:1-7

## CONCLUSION: ON THE LOVE OF GOD...

“So much as we see the love of God,  
So much shall we delight in him, and no more.”

(John Owen, “Communion with God”, in *Works*, 2:36)

“If Christ’s obedience to the Father was the truest and necessary expression of the reality of his love for the Father, then the severity of what was asked of him and his willingness to obey at a cost beyond human comprehension indicate a love that is so great, so pure, so deep, and so passionate, that we can only grasp in miniscule part what this truest of all loves really is. But this much we can know: such love would never, could never, be love were it not for costly obedience. This is the hallmark of Jesus’ love for the Father.

“And what of the Father’s love for his Son?... the Father takes such great joy and delight in “showing off” his Son. Jesus is, after all, his “beloved Son,” and so we are to listen to and follow him... But is it love to command his Son to come and die? Is it love to require his Son to bear our sin and the Father’s own wrath through the pain and agony of the cross? Of course we know that “God so loved the world” when he sent his Son to die on our behalf (John 3:16). But did the Father love the Son in this action and in this sending? And the answer, amazingly, is yes, indeed. The Father showed his Son the highest honor by giving him the mission by which he would win the right to rule as King of kings and Lord of lords... The Father’s love for the Son led him to give to his Son, and to none other, the greatest of all tasks, that he might then grant him the highest of all names... This is the hallmark of the Father’s love for his Son.

“True love, then, is “wrapped” in relationships, and whenever those relationships involve some level of authority and submission, the love of the Son for the Father, and of the Father for the Son, instruct us concerning just what love really is... True love more often than we think, is shown precisely in loving obedience or in loving authority. May we reflect deeply on the love relationships to eh Father and the Son and allow this reality to reshape the love relationships of our lives.”

(Bruce Ware, *Father, Son and Holy Spirit*, pp101-102)