

Emmaus Essentials
The London Baptist Confession of 1689
Chapter 2 - Of God and The Holy Trinity (Part 2)
Created 10/26/2013
For Distribution the Week of 12/15/2013

I. Introduction

II. Paragraph 2

- A. Reading of the Paragraph
- B. General Outline of Paragraph 2
 - 1. Dr. Renihan, what point is paragraph 2 making?
a. Dr. Renihan
 - 2. And how would you outline the flow of thought in this paragraph?
a. Dr. Renihan
- C. Questions About Paragraph 2
 - 1. There is a strong emphasis here upon the fact that God does not stand in need of any creature. The confession says that "He does not derive any glory from them, but only manifests His own glory in, by, unto, and upon them." And yet the scriptures also make it clear that the supreme purpose of man is to glorify God. I think of Psalm 22:23, for example, which says, "You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!" How are we to reconcile these two concepts, that on the one hand God stands alone, he does need anything from his creatures, nor does he derive or receive any glory from them; and on the other hand, we have in fact been created and even commanded to bring glorify to God in thought, word, and deed?
a. Dr. Renihan
 - 2. This line, after footnote 22, seems like it is full of technical language, and so it stands out as probably being important. The confession says, "In his sight all things are open and manifest, His knowledge is infinite, infallible, and independent upon the creature, so as nothing is to Him contingent or uncertain." Would you comment on the significance of that sentence?
a. Dr. Renihan
 - 3. Dr. Renihan, would says a few words words about the conclusion of chapter 2?
(all of this leads to worship)
a. Dr. Renihan

III. Paragraph 3

- A. Read the Paragraph
- B. General Outline of Paragraph 3
 - 1. Dr. Renihan, what point is paragraph 3 making?
a. Dr. Renihan
 - 2. And how would you outline the flow of thought in this paragraph?
a. Dr. Renihan
 - 3. Clearly, the language being used here in this chapter is very technical. Why is that?
a. Dr. Renihan
 - 4. It has already been firmly established in paragraph one that there is only one God. The paragraph opens with the words, "The Lord our God is but one only living and true God." But now in paragraph 3 we are told that, "In this divine and infinite Being there are three subsistences, the Father, the Word (or Son), and Holy Spirit." This word "subsistences" is probably new to a lot of people. Why this word?

The WCF and the Savoy use the word "Persons", which we are all more familiar with. Why did the Particular Baptists chose to use the word "subsistences" instead?

a. Dr. Renihan

5. So God is one and yet "in this divine and infinite being there are three subsistences (or persons), the Father, the Word (or Son), and Holy Spirit", but the confession goes on to clarify that these are "of one substance, power, and eternity, each having the whole divine essence, yet the essence undivided." What does this mean?

a. Dr. Renihan

6. And then the confession, after setting forth this foundational doctrine, goes on to talk about how the "son is eternally begotten of the Father" and how the "Spirit [proceeds] from the Father and the Son." What is the significance of this teaching?

a. Dr. Renihan

7. These doctrines are difficult to comprehend. Where do they come from?

a. Dr. Renihan

8. People have a hard time understanding the doctrine of the Trinity. What would you say if someone asked you the question, "do you understand the Trinity?"

a. Dr. Renihan

9. I know that it is your view, and the view of many others, that the doctrine of the Trinity, though it is difficult to comprehend, is really at the heart of the Christian faith. The confession even brings this out in the closing line of paragraph 3, saying that this "doctrine of the Trinity is the foundation of all our communion with God, and comfortable dependence upon him." What is being communicated here?

a. Dr. Renihan

IV. Conclusion

A. Application

1. One of the things that I intend to do in this series, is to, at the end of every chapter, ask the question, "what difference should all of this make? What sort of impact should this teaching have upon our lives as followers of Christ." Dr. Renihan, if you were to draw out one point of application from the biblical teaching here in chapter 2, what would it be?

a. Dr. Renihan

B. Closing Remarks

1. Thank you to Dr. Renihan
2. Tune in next week as we begin our study of Chapter 3 - Of God's Decree.
3. Let me close with this exhortation based off of 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 - "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be of courage; be strong. Do everything in love." Lord willing, I'll see you all in worship on the Lord's Day.