

Each of the three Persons thinks, feels, wills, and acts in harmony or consonance with each of the others, even when one of the Persons is the primary agent in carrying out some specific aspect of the Plan of God. Of course, when we introduce the incarnation of the Son, we must make some qualifications in terms of mutual interpenetration, once the Son became incarnate. For example, the Father and the Spirit did not think, feel, or will all of the things the incarnate Son thought, felt, or willed, even though they knew all of His thoughts, empathized with all of His feelings, and acquiesced in all of His decisions. In addition, the Father and the Spirit did not do all of the things the incarnate Son did. The incarnate Son alone grew in wisdom and understanding, the incarnate Son alone completely subordinated Himself to the Father's will and the Spirit's leading, the incarnate Son alone suffered weariness and hunger and thirst and suffering, the incarnate Son alone prayed, "If it is your will, Father, let this cup pass from me, yet not my will but yours be done." the incarnate Son alone experienced the agonies and cruel death of the cross, and the incarnate Son alone was resurrected to newness of life.

c. The essential equality and economic subordination of the Persons of the Trinity must be kept distinct. The three Persons are eternally equal in essence (defined as the sum total of characteristics or attributes), but assume superordinate/subordinate relationships in the outworking of God's Plan.

The fact that different Persons of the godhead carry out different functions in the implementation of God's purpose implies nothing about essential subordination, but only expresses the subordinate relationships the three Persons have assumed in order to carry out the design of the triune God.

### SUMMARY

- (1) The three Persons of the Trinity share a oneness of being while preserving distinctness of personality (thus oneness yet individuality)
- (2) The three Persons of the Trinity share a unity of essence and a consonance of activity, while preserving distinctness of individual action (thus unity and harmony, yet uniqueness)
- (3) The three Persons of the Trinity share an equality of essence, while assuming subordinate relationships and carrying out differing functions in implementing the Plan of the Triune God (thus equality, yet inequality and difference)