

John 3; Lord's Day 13

FAITH IN GOD'S ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

- I. The evidence.
 - I. When Jesus' human nature was in earthly humility, then it hard to see that He was the Son of God.
 - II. But it was and is necessary that He be known for who he really was and is (the Son of God)!
 - I. John the Baptist did (John 1:34), as did Nathaniel (John 1:49), Peter (Matt. 16:16), and Thomas (John 20:28).
 - II. John begins his narrative testifying of Jesus' deity (John 1:1-3,14,18; 3:16); as does his epistle (I John 5:5,20).
 - III. Paul declared Jesus to be divine in Romans 9:5 and I Timothy 3:16.
 - IV. Jesus had divine attributes of eternity (Micah 5:2), omnipotence (Rev. 1:8), and omniscience (John 1:48-50; 21:17).
 - V. And He did divine works: creating (John 1:3; Col. 1:16,17), forgiving (Luke 5:24), raising the dead (John 5:21); and He declaring Himself and the Father to be one (John 10:30).
 - That Jesus is the Son of God is so important that we must insist on the language, "the only begotten Son of God."
- I. If Jesus is only a man, then the church's faith in Him is only hero worship, faith in a man.
- II. Christ's sonship is unique especially because He is "begotten".
- III. His Sonship is "only."
 - I. First, He is only because He alone is the Person of God the Son (our persons are human, not divine).
 - II. Second, He is only because He has the Divine nature and we are always human.
 - Its great significance: only in and through Christ can we confess that we too are God's children.
- I. God graciously adopted us and gave us the glorious privilege of being called His children (Gal. 4:4,5).
- II. Our adoption into God's family is only and always by grace.
- III. We are legally adopted.
- IV. We are spiritually adopted, i.e., made God's children in reality (not step-children).
- V. Abide in the happy and peace-giving confidence that we are in His family and that He will take us into His home.