

**My God and Father****Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 9**

1. A GLORIOUS DOCTRINE: When we confess God as \_\_\_\_\_, we also confess the doctrine of God's \_\_\_\_\_. Two truths are held together in this confession of faith:
- As Creator, God \_\_\_\_\_ comprehensively sovereign over and \_\_\_\_\_ with his creation.  
 | ...who works all things according to the counsel of his will (Ephesians 1:11b)
  - God is sovereign, not as an abstract or distant \_\_\_\_\_, but with a \_\_\_\_\_ and particular concern for his \_\_\_\_\_: "my God and Father."  
 | For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15)
2. A BEAUTIFUL PROMISE: Because of that \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ, we are promised the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's providence for us.
- God will provide "whatever I need." Everything \_\_\_\_\_ comes from God, and therefore we ought to have a prayerfully Godward orientation in \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 104, for example).
  - This involves mystery: "whatever adversity he sends me." We are free to acknowledge – to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ – that even with the promise of God's providence, we remain in a "vale of tears" (Psalm 23 or 88, for example).
  - God works all things together \_\_\_\_\_.  
 | And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:29)
- | For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (Romans 8:18)
3. A SECURE IDENTITY: This is a deeply \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ confession of faith.
- Your \_\_\_\_\_ identity is a \_\_\_\_\_ that you are called to receive and \_\_\_\_\_ in by faith: God is your Father for the sake of Christ his Son.  
 | <sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:31-32)
  - Our life together is intended to \_\_\_\_\_ us – in times of temptation, suffering, and spiritual doldrums – that we must re-member our \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Say to each other: \_\_\_\_\_ !