



## Introduction

- Our God is an eternal God.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1 ESV)

Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God. (Psalm 90:2 ESV)

Your throne is established from of old;  
you are from everlasting. (Psalm 93:2 ESV)

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. (Isaiah 40:28a ESV)

But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,  
and his righteousness to children's children. (Psalm 103:17 ESV)

## Covenant of Redemption

- Who has been the object of God's love from everlasting to everlasting?

The *covenant of redemption* is rooted in eternity and involves the parties who work together to effect human redemption: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.<sup>1</sup>

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as **he chose us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. **In him we have redemption** through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of

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<sup>1</sup> R. C. Sproul, *What is Reformed Theology?* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1997), 108.



your salvation, and believed in him, were *sealed with the promised Holy Spirit*, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:3-14 ESV)

- The Father chooses, the Son redeems, and the Spirit seals.

### The Son Loved by the Father

- The Father sent his beloved Son to accomplish redemption.
- A man must die since it was a man, Adam, that transgressed God's command in the Garden of Eden
- Only God can satisfy God and God is love.

### Abraham and Isaac

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." (Genesis 22:1–2 ESV)

Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." (Genesis 22:10–12 ESV)

### David

When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'" (2 Samuel 7:12–16 ESV)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14 ESV)

- The everlasting love of the Father for the Son as redeemer was typified in the Old Testament through Abraham, Isaac, and David.



## Adoption

- Adoptionism – the divine *Logos*, or Word, descended on the human man Jesus. Jesus was not born of a virgin but when the *Logos* indwelt this man, God adopted him as his son.
- Arianism – the *Logos* was a created being, the first created being. The *Logos* took the place of the human soul in Jesus.

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. (1 John 3:1–3 ESV)

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 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!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (Romans 8:12–17 ESV)

## Loved in Christ

- Liberal theology in the 19<sup>th</sup> century proclaimed the false ideas of the universal fatherhood of God and the universal brotherhood of man.
- The Father does not love us because we are loveable. The Father loves us because he loves his Son with an eternal love, and we are in his Son.

As soon as he [David] had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt. (1 Samuel 18:1–4 ESV)

And Jonathan said to David, “The LORD, the God of Israel, be witness! When I have sounded out my father, about this time tomorrow, or the third day, behold, if he is well disposed toward David, shall I not then send and disclose it to you? But should it please my father to do you harm, the LORD do so to Jonathan and more also if I do not disclose it to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. May the LORD be with you, as he has been with my father. If I am still alive, show me the steadfast love of the LORD, that I may not die; and do not cut off your steadfast love from my house forever, when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.” And Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “May the LORD take vengeance on David's enemies.” And



Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own soul. (1 Samuel 20:12–17 ESV)

And David said, “Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?” Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and they called him to David. And the king said to him, “Are you Ziba?” And he said, “I am your servant.” And the king said, “Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?” Ziba said to the king, “There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet.” The king said to him, “Where is he?” And Ziba said to the king, “He is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar.” Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar. And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. And David said, “Mephibosheth!” And he answered, “Behold, I am your servant.” And David said to him, “Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always.” And he paid homage and said, “What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?” Then the king called Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, “All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson. And you and your sons and your servants shall till the land for him and shall bring in the produce, that your master's grandson may have bread to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's grandson shall always eat at my table.” (2 Samuel 9:1–10a ESV)

- The primary reason David cared for Mephibosheth was not his love for Mephibosheth but his love for Jonathan, Mephibosheth’s father.
- David accords Mephibosheth the same right as his own sons, to eat at his table.
- Because the Father has loved the Son from all eternity we get to sit at the King’s table.
- We are part of God’s family because of the eternal love of the Father for the Son.

## Conclusion

Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. (John 17:24 ESV)

“Fear not, for you will not be ashamed;  
    be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced;  
for you will forget the shame of your youth,  
    and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more.  
For your Maker is your husband,  
    the LORD of hosts is his name;  
and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer,  
    the God of the whole earth he is called.



For the LORD has called you  
like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit,  
like a wife of youth when she is cast off,  
says your God.  
For a brief moment I deserted you,  
but with great compassion I will gather you.  
In overflowing anger for a moment  
I hid my face from you,  
but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,”  
says the LORD, your Redeemer. (Isaiah 54:4–8 ESV)

“At that time [in the latter days], declares the LORD, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they shall be my people.”

Thus says the LORD:  
“The people who survived the sword  
found grace in the wilderness;  
when Israel sought for rest,  
the LORD appeared to him from far away.  
I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.  
Again I will build you, and you shall be built,  
O virgin Israel!  
Again you shall adorn yourself with tambourines  
and shall go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.  
Again you shall plant vineyards  
on the mountains of Samaria;  
the planters shall plant  
and shall enjoy the fruit.  
For there shall be a day when watchmen will call  
in the hill country of Ephraim:  
‘Arise, and let us go up to Zion,  
to the LORD our God.’” (Jeremiah 31:1–6 ESV)