

“Eternally begotten of the Father”

JD Van Hook

The thought of being “Eternally begotten of the Father” is tricky to first comprehend as the first two words don’t seem to go together. What does it mean to be eternal and to be born? As we think about the Father's relationship to the Son, we recognize that it is not something simple that we can easily comprehend. However, in stating that we believe in Jesus who was “Eternally begotten of the Father,” we establish boundaries that can guide our thoughts towards who he is. To say that he isn’t eternal could be considered out of bounds, just as it would be to say that he isn’t begotten of the Father. This line keeps us in check and attacks the thoughts of heresies like adoptionism - the idea that God adopted the Son, likely at baptism. This part of the Creed does not complete every thought that anyone could ever have, but rather keeps a boundary for where our thoughts should be.

Additionally, we are reminded of the relationship between the Father and the Son. If they are both one and the same, why is it that God chooses to explain their relationship through a father and son instead of, say, brothers? The relationship helps explain the love and trust that God has for His Son and that it is different from anything else. It also helps lead us to remember who it was that He eventually sent down to die for us and the type of price that was paid.

Jesus is God’s Son but didn’t have a beginning. Our thoughts are guided by this line of the creed as we remember the love and the power of who God is and the Son who has always been with Him forever.