

the likeness of the divine life without the Incarnation. God's intention concerning the production of a divine manhood was never accomplished until realized in the perfection of the man Jesus of Nazareth, who "advanced (made progress) in wisdom (knowledge of things human and divine) and stature (age), and in favor (grace, good-will) with God and man." In the image, man possessed in perfection, the potentialities and the possibilities of divine likeness, but the actuality was contingent upon the circumstances of human development through knowledge by experience, acuteness, etc. Image is the fixed and inalienable resemblance to God's nature, while likeness is the progressive and habitual growth in the similitude of God's character. The image was propagated solely at the will of God, but the likeness is developed at the will of man. Though human parents transmit their nature in kind to their children, yet what the character will be in the manifestation of that nature depends upon the action of the child. We are not to understand that "the image of God" as the divine personality was in man, forming an actual union of the divine and human natures, so that he was "the image of the invisible God." This could only be said of Jesus Christ, in the image of whose image man was created. As the parent, without giving up the identity of his own personality, or actually imparting his own being, begets a child "in (according to) his own likeness, after (like as) his image," so God begets man, possessing all the essential elements of His nature, but not the perfected attributes of his moral character. Man is similar to, but not identical with, God; like Him in nature, but distinguished from Him in ethical individuality. Man bears the relation of a child to God, he is His divine, time-begotten son.

FATHER—CHILD—SON.

From the above study of man's original creation we conclude that man is God's own child; "Being then the offspring of God" as to his spiritual nature. Father and child are correlative terms; the idea of childhood includes the idea of paternity, but paternity carries with it the idea of similarity of nature, and childhood that of similarity of character. Man