

not impossible to form an idea of Fatherhood and Sonship, but as co-relative and co-existent."

"One may indeed," continues he, "exist as a man before his son, but not as the father of such a son." This I conceive to be a mere evasion, because the question is not, whether one is really a father before he has a son, but whether father does not imply a real personal existence prior to that of son.

It is allowed, that the two first persons in the Trinity are co-existent, and that a contrary representation of them would be a dangerous error. We should not, then, with reference to those persons, use terms, which taken in their established meaning, actually convey ideas directly contrary to co-existence. Aware of this, the author just alluded to, acknowledges, "that among men, a father has a personal existence prior to his fatherhood." However, seeing that such an acknowledgment obviously points out the impropriety of the title in question, he immediately adds these words: "But not so in the present subject."

What! does the subject alter the meaning of the term? The precision of language depends on its terms; therefore, no man can be justified in using them in direct contradiction to their precise signification. If men affix different and contrary ideas to the same term, the consequence must be, that the mind of the speaker will be apprehended by the hearer in a contrary sense to what the speaker intends.

But let terms be used in their precise signification, and this will no longer be the case. Then, those inconsistent divines, who by the abuse of words, have often thrown the world into confusion, will sink in eternal disgrace.

Thus, even reason exposes the absurdity of the title. However, I am not ignorant that some have endeavoured to defend it from the sacred records; I shall therefore, shew from conclusive Scriptural authority, that even the bare title, "Son," was not used, by the inspired writers, with absolute and abstract reference to the eternal Logos. The glorious being, of whom I have just made mention, frequently appeared to the

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