

Presbyterianism 101

Officer Preparation & Christian Enrichment

Benefits of Effectual Calling

*They that are effectually called do in this life partake of **justification, adoption, and sanctification**, and the several benefits which, in this life, do either **accompany** or **flow** from them. (WSC32)*

JSA: Heart of the Christian Life

- **Justification:** Change in status before God
- **Sanctification:** Progressive growth in holiness toward perfect maturity
- **Adoption:** Change in relationship with God
 - What effect, how do justification and sanctification manifest themselves in the lives of God's People?
 - Key Position of this chapter: sandwich

Importance of Adoption

- **Justification:** legal act, judicial verdict and pronouncement of not guilty; cf. Pardon
 - No change in relationship between the accused
 - Merely legal act, no new benefits conferred (though perhaps benefits restored)
- **Adoption:** Legal act and declaration that brings new privileges and relations

Adoption Defined

Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges, of the sons of God (WSC 34 cf. WLC 74)

Family by Birth

- **We are not orphans:** everyone is born into a family
- John 8:43-44.** *Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

Family by Birth

- **What of the Fatherhood of God, Brotherhood of Man**

Acts 17:26–29, *And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for “In him we live and move and have our being; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed his offspring.’ Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man...*

Family by Birth

- **What of the Fatherhood of God, Brotherhood of Man??**

Ephesians 2:1–3, *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the **sons of disobedience**—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature **children of wrath**, like the rest of mankind.*

Family of Rebirth

- **God’s Family**: brought into God’s family against the will of the devil

- Adoption happens in time: a person is translated from being a son of the devil and made a son of God
- Adoption is simultaneous with faith, repentance, and justification

John 1:9-13, *The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

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Life in New Family WCF 12

All those that are justified, God graciously guarantees, in and for His only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace of adoption: by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God [that relationship], have His name put upon them, receive the spirit of adoption, have access to the throne of grace with boldness, are enabled to cry, Abba, Father; are pitied, protected, provided for, and chastened by Him as by a Father; yet never cast off, but sealed to the day of redemption, and inherit the promises, as heirs of everlasting salvation.

Life in New Family

- **Gracious Guarantee:** God *vouchsafes* to make His people partakers in His grace on the basis of His Son obedience
 - Blessing, kindness, generosity of Christ to share His inheritance with us
 - Happiness of a family is unique, unlike the happiness of a courtroom or doctor's surgery

Life in New Family

- **Liberties and Privileges**
 - God's Name and Spirit: we belong to Him, are conformed to His image
 - Access to the Throne of Grace
- Galatians 4:6-7**, *And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.*

WCF100

WSC100, *The preface of the Lord's Prayer, which is, Our Father which art in heaven, teacheth us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father, able and ready to help us; and that we should pray with and for others.*

Life in New Family

- **Benefits of Sonship**

- Pitied, Protected, Provided for
- Access to the Throne of Grace

Psa 103:1-5, *Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

Life in New Family

- **Assurance and Comfort**

- God's Chastisement: God disciplines His children, but that is always an expression of mercy
- Sealed: the inheritance of His sons is certain

1Pt:3-5, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

Life in New Family

- **Assurance and Comfort**

- God's Chastisement: God disciplines His children, but that is always an expression of mercy
- Sealed: the inheritance of His sons is certain

Eph 1:11-14, *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 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.*

Life in New Family

- **Family Fellowship**

- Can we conceive of God as father and not be moved to thoughts of love? Love for God's family too?

1 John 4:19-21, *We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

Life in New Family

- **Angels as Ministers (servants)**

- Angels sent to help God's family on earth
- Ought we seek opportunities to serve one another also?

Hebrews 1:13-14, *And to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?*
