

Of Adoption, (John 1:12)

Baptist Confession of Faith (1689) Chapter 12, Paragraph 1

Doctrine

Defining the Doctrine of Adoption

- All those who God justifies are also partakers of the grace of **adoption**.
- To be **adopted** means that one was originally in a state of abandonment or ruin, which we are spiritually by our union with Adam and continual/constant rebellion (sin) against God.
- But, out of free **grace**, the lost are irrevocably chosen and brought (adopted) under the affection, care, and protection of another.

The Baptist Catechism, Question 37: *What is adoption?*

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.

- Those God predestines, He regenerates, calls, justifies, and **adopts**.
- Our adoption is for the sake of Jesus Christ, who is the only Begotten **Son** of the Father.
- It is for the sake of Christ in two ways:
 - i) First, referring to the application of His accomplished work of **redemption** on the cross;
 - ii) Second, referring to the truth that the Church is given to the Son for the display of His **glory** for eternity over all things.
- With our **adoption** in Christ, we are given liberties and privileges, along with a peculiar hope which belongs exclusively to the Church.

The Liberties and Privileges of Our Adoption

- We have the **name** of the Lord put on us (Num. 6:27; 2 Cor. 6:18; Rev. 3:12).
- We receive the spirit of **adoption** (Rom. 8:15).
- We have **access** to the throne of grace with boldness (Eph. 2:18; Heb. 4:16).

- We are **enabled** to cry 'Abba, Father' (Gal. 4:6).
- We **receive** the benefits of Christ through the ordinary means of Grace, in fellowship with the Triune God and His Church.
- We are **pitied** in our suffering (Psa. 103:13; 2 Cor. 1:4).
- We are **protected** against the evil one, having Christ as our Advocate (Prov. 14:26; 1 Jn. 2:1; Rev. 12:10-11).
- We are **provided** for in our needs and blessed abundantly (Mt. 6:22-32, 7:7-11; 1 Pt. 5:7).
- We are **chastened** by God as by a Father (Prov. 15:32; Heb. 12:6).

The Hope of Our Adoption

- We are **never** cast off by our Heavenly Father (Isa. 54:8-9; Lam. 3:31).
- We are **sealed** to the day of redemption (Eph. 4:30).
- We will **inherit** the promises as heirs of everlasting salvation, along with all the saints (Col. 1:12; Heb. 1:14, 6:12).

Application

- 1) **Thanksgiving**: Thanks be to God for His mighty work of salvation and His free grace given to us by the blood of His Son.
- 2) **Enjoyment** and stewardship of the privileges of our adoption: proper worship, communion with God and one another, obedience, faithfulness, proclamation of the Gospel, gratitude, and endurance.
- 3) Joyful **anticipation** of the hope we have in Christ Jesus!