

Chapter 11. I Have Been Declared 'Not Guilty'!

[Falls Church – An OPC Family Watch Your Life and Doctrine Course 2020]

Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter **Eleven**, Of Justification

We thank God for His solution to our most perplexing need: yes there is a way for us as sinful people, to again be right with God.

Romans 8:30, "...those [God] predestined, He also called; **those He called; He also justified, those He justified, He also glorified.**"

11.1 We deepen our thanks for the obedience of Christ -- the only hope of our salvation.

Who justifies? Romans 8:33, "It is God who justifies..."

Can you justify yourself? No.

Can you become good enough to outweigh the bad things you have done? No.

What does it mean that justification is a judicial act of God? Romans 5:17-19.

11.2 The only way that we receive justification is by faith – we must rest on Jesus.

Double imputation.

The ONE ground of justification. Philippians 3:8-9.

We must be perfect.

11.3 We thank God for both His justice and His grace in our justification.

God justifies us based on the right cost. Isaiah 53:10-11.

11.4 We appreciate the role of time: our justification was decreed before time, accomplished in the fullness of time, and applied to us in due time.

Justification (declared holy)

God imputes the righteousness of Christ

Sin is pardoned

Equally frees all believers from wrath

Perfect now and always.

Sanctification (becoming more holy)

Spirit infuses grace, enables.

Sin is subdued.

Not equal in all believers.

Not perfect in this life, growing.

11.5 While justification makes us secure, we see the need to live right.

RC – still sin? No.

WCF - still sin? Yes.

Mass = momentarily sinless. Never sinless. 1 John 1:8

Never guilty. Hebrews 10:14

Never condemned. Romans 8:1

11.6 We understand how ancient, yet how relevant and precious, is this good news.

How were people justified in the days of Moses? Galatians 3:21-24.

Where do I see this every day?

Do you feel guilty? True guilt or false? What is the solution for both?

What is your level of certainty of your standing before God each day? What are you seeking?

WCF.Chapter 12. I Am a Child of God!

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Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter Twelve, Of Adoption

We are in awe of the privilege that we can speak to the master of the universe with the most intimate of terms – we call Him Father.

What is adoption? An act of transfer!

12.1 We have an amazing position and status before God – the closest possible intimacy and the fullest possible access to God.

Seven things to remember about adoption:

1. God is not the father of all men.
 - a. God is the Creator of all men.
 - b. All have one father or the other; God or Satan! Jn. 8:44 1 Jn 3:10,23-24 4:20
2. All Christians are children of God. 1 John 3:1-2
3. Jesus is the unique son of God.
 - a. We have the same Father. 1 Peter 1:3,17 John 20:17.
 - b. Jesus is the only son who is begotten, not adopted. Jn. 1:14 Jn. 3:16. .
4. We are joint heirs with Christ – by adoption!
 - a. Jesus is heir of the world. Rom. 4:13 Gen. 17:4-6. Ps. 24:1 Heb. 1:2
 - b. We are joint heirs with Christ. Rom. 8:16-17 Gal. 3:29 4:7 1 Peter 3:7
5. One of the best privileges of adoption is the privilege of prayer.
 - a. Enabled to pray by the Spirit. Romans 8:15.
 - b. Taught by the Spirit to pray. Romans 8:26.
 - c. Spirit prays for us! Romans 8:26.
 - d. Access to the Father. Ephesians 2:18.
 - e. In your praying, remember the privilege and responsibility of calling God Father. Matthew 6:9, “Our Father in heaven...”
6. God treats us as His own precious children.
 - a. Pity. Psalm 103:13
 - b. Protection. Proverbs 14:26, Psalm 27:5
 - c. Providence. Matthew 6:30-32 1 Peter 5:7
 - d. Paddling. Hebrews 12:6-11 (discipline)
 - e. Perseverance. Romans 8:23, 28, 38-39. (safe to the end.)
7. Recover your sense of wonder – that we are children of the living God!
 - a. Let this truth begin to transform your life!
 - b. Your identity is known and secure – I am one of His children.
 - c. My roots and belonging is known – God’s people are my brothers.

WCF.Chapter 13. God Keeps Causing Me to Grow and Grow

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Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter **Thirteen**, Of Sanctification

We are so very thankful that God continues to make us more like His Son.

WSC 35 - What is sanctification? ...the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

13.1 We are already made alive, and so it is expected that we will grow, which is a breach from sin and death at the core of our being.

How are we sanctified? John 17: 17

From what have we been set free? Romans 6:1-12. What does that mean for us?

What is one good way to rid a person of sin?

13.2. Sanctification is the flip side of total depravity. In total depravity, we are not as bad as we could be, but there is no part of us untouched by sin. So, in sanctification, there is no part of us that is not affected by the work of the Spirit. My thinking, my feeling, my will all are cleansed by the Spirit.

WAR - one of the most memorable phrases in the WCF - There abideth still some remnants of corruption in every part, whence ariseth a continual and irreconcilable war.

They are picking up Paul's thought in Galatians for the imagery in which to express this.

The flesh lusts against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh.

Sanctification is a BATTLE!

13.3 With our long-term perspective on the war, we believe that one wound is not the end of the entire war. Hebrews 12:1-9

The divines did not encourage their congregations to get out of Romans 7 and into Romans 8. The teaching of Romans 7 and 8 are not chronologically sequential, but as different perspectives on the one great reality of what it means to live a life in Christ.

I am completely regenerate throughout, and there are still pockets of resistance in me.

John Owen said that there are only two problems for shepherding work of pastors and elders: 1) persuading those under the dominion of sin, that they really are, and 2) persuading those who are not under the dominion of sin, that they are not.

Colossians 3:1-5.

Romans 8:13 12:1-2

2 Peter 3:17-18.

WLC77: Wherein do justification and sanctification differ? Answer: Although sanctification be inseparably joined with justification, yet they differ, in that God in justification imputeth the righteousness of Christ; in sanctification his Spirit infuseth grace, and enableth to the exercise thereof; in the former, sin is pardoned; in the other, it is subdued: the one doth equally free all believers from the revenging wrath of God, and that perfectly in this life, that they never fall into condemnation; the other is neither equal in all, nor in this life perfect in any, but growing up to perfection.