

Second London Baptist Confession Chapter 12: Adoption

I. The Recipients of Adoption

-“...all those who are justified...receive the grace of adoption” (Rom. 8:30 with Eph. 1:5)

II. The Author of Adoption

-“God has granted that all those who are justified would receive the grace of adoption...” (Eph. 1:5)

III. The Ground of Adoption

-“God has granted that all those who are justified would receive the grace of adoption, in and for the sake of His only Son Jesus Christ.” (Gal. 4:4, 5)

IV. The Blessings of Adoption

-Incorporation into God’s Family: “By this they are counted among the children of God and enjoy the freedom and privileges of that relationship. They inherit His name.” (Rom 8:15-17; Rev. 3:12)

-Reception of a Filial Disposition: “...receive the spirit of adoption, have access to the throne of grace with boldness, and are enabled to cry ‘Abba, Father!’” (Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6)

-Experience of Paternal Treatment by God: “They are given compassion (Ps. 103:13), protected (Prov. 14:26), provided for (1 Pet. 5:7), and chastened by Him as a father (Heb. 12:6). Yet they are never cast off (Jer. 31:37) but are sealed for the day of redemption...” (Eph. 4:30)

-Reception of the Promised Inheritance: “...and inherit the promises as heirs of everlasting salvation.” (Rom. 8:16, 17)

-Corresponding Liabilities: Submission to Fatherly Discipline (Heb. 12:5, 9); Conflict with Sin and Temptation (Rom. 8:12-14); Suffering with Christ (Rom. 8:16, 17)

Practical Lessons

1) Prayer (Matt. 7:11; Rom. 8:15, 26; Heb. 10:19, 22)

2) Holiness (Rom. 8:12-14; Heb. 12:10)

3) Hope (Rom. 8:18, 23 Col. 3:1, 4, 5 1 John 3:2)