

Lord's Day 13: Orthodox Catechism (Questions 32-33)

Introduction: An eternal generation

Theme:

Jesus Christ is eternally God's one and only Son, who redeemed *us**, made possible our adoption, and receives worship from us as King of King and Lord of Lords

*Rom 8:30

1. **Question 32:** For what cause is Christ called the only begotten Son of God, when we also are the sons of God

Answer: Because Christ alone is the eternal and natural Son of the Father (**a**), and we are but sons adopted of the Father by grace for His sake (**b**).

(**a**): John 3:16; Rom 8:3; Heb 1:2-3

(**b**): John 1:12; Gal 4:5; Eph 1:6; 1 John 1:3

- **Christ alone is the only begotten and natural Son of God**

Begotten: Only one of its kind, unique (ESV renders it this way)

Nature: Christ's nature is that of God. He is the unique fully God and fully man (Col 2:9)

- **He always does what pleases the Father** (John 8: 28-29)

- **His Sonship is eternal** – Jesus Christ was always (Alpha and Omega, Rev 22:13) God's Son

- Was sent by God (John 1:14, 1Jn 4:9)
- Was active in creation (Jn 1: 1-2, cf Gen 1:1)
- The eternal Christ was prophesied (Micha 5:2)
- Christ proclaimed his eternity (John 8:58)

2. **There is no ambiguity in Christ's eternal sonship**

- Christ's followers believed that Jesus was the Son of God
 - Peter and Thomas (John 6:68-69; John 20:28)
- Christ's enemies hated Him because he claimed to be the Son of God
 - Devil: (Matt 4:3, 6)
 - Before the High Priest: (Mark 14:61-62)
- **No ambiguity, but the need to decide which you believe.**
 - Is He truly the Son of God or an imposter?
 - You must make that decision just as those did in Jesus' day (Matt: 22:42)

Note: Jesus did not become the Son, but he did become incarnate (Phil 2:5-11)

3. **God has adopted His Elect through the work of Jesus Christ**

- Adoption implies a need (kids don't get adopted from good families)

- Christ made our adoption possible (Gal 4:4-6, Eph 1:5-6)
- Adoption gives full rights and privileges (Rom 8:16-17)

4. Question 33: Why do you call Him Lord?

Answer: Because He, redeeming and ransoming both our body and soul from sin, not with gold or silver, but with His precious blood, and delivering us from all the power of the devil, has set us free to serve Him (a).

(a) Rom 14:9; 1 Cor 6:20; Eph 1:7; 1 Tim 2-5-6; 1 Pet 1:18

- **Christ is Lord**
 - Our agreeing or disagreeing with that statement doesn't change who He is (Rev 19:16)
- **True believers understand:**
 - We were debtors to the law (James 2:10)
 - We are now made free (because of Christ) (Rom 8:2)
 - We have been given to Christ (John 6:37)
 - We are dead to sin that we should live for God (Rom 6:1-7 and following)
 - Become slaves to righteousness (Rom 6:18)
 - Illustration of the married woman whose husband is dead We are dead to the law so we can give ourselves to our Lord and Savior Jesus (Rom 7: 1-4)
 - We wrestle with our own flesh in order to serve our Lord (Rom 7:7-25)
 - We desire to present ourselves to God as a sacrifice because Christ sacrificed himself for us (Rom 12:1, Eph 5:1-2)
 - We do not desire to turn back (Gal 4:9)

Questions

1. Why is it important to believe in Christ's eternal generation (eternally begotten)?
2. How do you personally understand your place as an adopted child of God?
3. Is it possible to be a true believer in Christ and not acknowledge His Lordship?
4. What are some usual evidences in the Christian's life that they are adopted as children of God and living in a way that pleases Christ?
5. What are some evidences of a person who has a head knowledge but not a heart knowledge of being adopted into God's family?
6. How should knowing that we are joint heirs with Christ influence our walk with Him?