

The Westminster Confession of Faith

Week 12 ~ What is Adoption?

12:1 What is Adoption

The forgotten doctrine

What it is NOT:

NOT justification

NOT being created by God

Galatians 4:1-7

Results of adoption

Received into the family of God (like Christ): John 1:12; 2 Cor. 5:18

Given the liberties and privileges of children (like Christ): Ro. 8:17

Given the name of God: Rev. 3:12

Given the Spirit of adoption which seals (Eph.4:30) and secures the benefits:
Ro. 8:15

Given bold access to the throne of God: Eph. 3:12; Ro. 5:2

Given the pity (Ps. 103:13), protection (Prov. 14:26), provision (Mt. 6:30-32),
and discipline (He. 12:6) of God

Given the assurance of children: Lam. 3:31

Given an inheritance: He. 6:12; Ro. 8:17; *1 Pt. 1:3-4

The Spirit of Adoption – Romans 8:16-17

12:1 Slave v. Son

Grace:

Slave: God's supplemental help for you to live a holy life

Son: God's unmerited love for you and renewing work in your life

Faith:

Slave: Effort I put forward to believe without doubting so that God will love me

Son: Way of life of remembering what God has done, and resting/receiving what
he has done as the most important thing in my life

Obedience:

Slave: Avoiding major sin and conforming to the rules of ethical behavior

Son: Primarily growth in the fruit of the spirit and Christ likeness – both inwardly
and out

Slave: Obeys God out of a fear of rejection, a compulsive driven moralism, lots of
self criticism, defeated attitude – Joyless and mechanical obedience

Son: Obeys out of joy and gratitude; optimistic about change and what God is doing
in my life – how he is changing me and enabling me to put sin to death and put
on righteousness

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12:1 Slave v. Son

Response to sin and failure:

Slave: Many strategies to hide our failures; lots of gossip and blame shifting; anger at others who are different

Son: Open and transparent about failures and successes; not surprised by either one; free from having to put up a front; able to appreciate others who are different and hurting; repentance is natural and regular

Repentance:

Slave: admitting failure is destructive to life; avoid it all costs; last resort

Son: admitting failure is the starting point for every good work; it is the basis for my new identity in Christ; repentance is quick and willing

Relationships:

Slave: Feeling of isolation; no one understands me; I'm all alone

Son: Open and transparent friendships because we don't look them as either allies or enemies to my agenda

Slave: Controlled by other opinion; live to approval of others

Son: Integrity and courage regardless of who is watching – the only one whose opinion matters is God's and He delights in me

Trouble and hardship:

Slave: Falls into despair; sees trouble as payback from God

Son: Sees trouble as wise providence from the hand of my father who will never leave me and knows what is best for me.

Relationship with God:

Slave: Insecure, always waiting to react; feels close to God but can't approach him in sin

Son: Is bold and confident in relationship regardless of how life is going – can go to him any time with any problem

Attitude:

Slave: Arrogant and self centered yet discouraged and insecure

Son: Humble and broken yet bold and confident

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