

CHAPTER 12

OF ADOPTION

“1. All those that are justified, God vouchsafeth, in and for his only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace of adoption: by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God; have his name put upon them; receive the Spirit of adoption; have access to the throne of grace with boldness; are enabled to cry Abba, Father; are pitied, protected, provided for, and chastened by him as by a father; yet never cast off, but sealed to the day of redemption, and inherit the promises, as heirs of everlasting salvation.”

This wonderful chapter of our confession has only one section, but this section lists all the benefits we receive as children of God, having been born into his family. First, we note that this adoption is an act of grace, and has been obtained for us by the sacrifice of Christ. When we are justified through faith, God “takes us into the number . . . of the children of God.” This is the biblical doctrine of adoption. While some biblical passages speak of our adoption by God as such (as Eph. 1:5), most speak of it indirectly, when they say that believers are “children of God” or that God is their “Father.”

Here are the benefits of our adoption by God:

We enjoy the liberties of the children of God

- Freedom from sin
- Freedom from death
- Freedom from the wrath of God
- Freedom from the law as a curse
- Freedom from other men’s tyranny

We enjoy the privileges of the children of God

- We have God’s name on us (Jer 14:9; Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Pet 4:16; Rev 3:12).
- We have the Spirit of adoption (Rom 8:15).
- We have access to God in prayer (Matt 6:9; Rom 5:2; Eph 3:12).

- We can call on God as Father (Matt 6:9; Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6; “Abba” in Aramaic means “father”).
- We are pitied (Ps 103:13).
- We are protected (Prov 14:26).
- We are provided for (Matt 6:30-32; 1 Pet 5:7).
- We are chastened as children (Prov 3:11-12; Heb 12:7-11).
- We are secure as children, never to be cast off (Lam 3:31; John 10:27-30).
- We are sealed by the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30).
- We are heirs to inherit the promise (Heb 1:14; 9:15-17; 10:36; 11:39-40; 1 Pet 1:3-4).

These are the blessings we enjoy as “children of God,” because he has adopted us. Each of us is “a child of the King”!