

Blueprints for Belief

Laying the Theological Foundations for Constructing Your Faith

Westminster Confession of Faith 12.1 –October 8, 2025

1. All those that are justified God vouchsafeth (graciously grants), 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.

We're adopted into the family of God as his children:

- Ephesians 1:4-5: "In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will."

We receive the Holy Spirit who grants us access to God:

- Romans 8: 15-17: "¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!' ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,"

We receive the parenting of God:

- Matthew 6:30: "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"
- Hebrews 12:7: "It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?"

We receive an eternal inheritance promised in Christ.

- Ephesians 1:13-14: "In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Objections

"God is the father of everyone."

- God is only the father of those who are in Christ. Apart from Christ, we were "children of the devil," (1 John 3:10) "children of wrath" (Ephesians 2:3) and "children of darkness" (Col. 3:6).

Similar to justification, Catholic/Orthodox reject "faith alone" adoption, viewing it as a continual process of participating in grace through good works and sacraments.

- Prodigal Son: Luke 15:21-24: "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate."