

Adult Sunday School

May 15, 2022

Westminster Shorter Catechism (WSC) 32

Q. 32. What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?

A. They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption, and sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them.

And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, - 1 Corinthians 1:30.

And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. Romans 8:30

Compare Westminster Larger Catechism 69

Q. 69. What is the communion in grace which the members of the invisible church have with Christ?

A. The communion in grace which the members of the invisible church have with Christ, is their partaking of the virtue of his mediation, in their justification, adoption, sanctification, and whatever else, in this life, manifests their union with him.

Breaking it down:

1. Justification - ***And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. - Romans 8:30.***
2. Adoption - ***he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, -Ephesians 1:5***
3. Sanctification/Other Benefits -
 - a. ***For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth... And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, - 1 Corinthians 1:26, 30***
 - b. ***For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. 1 Thessalonians 4:7***

Observations¹

1. The fruit of our union with Christ in our effectual calling is communion with him.
2. Communion with Christ is distinguished between communion of interest and communion with relations.
 - a. The communion of relations is that near intimacy and sweet freedom which Christ and his people have with one another.

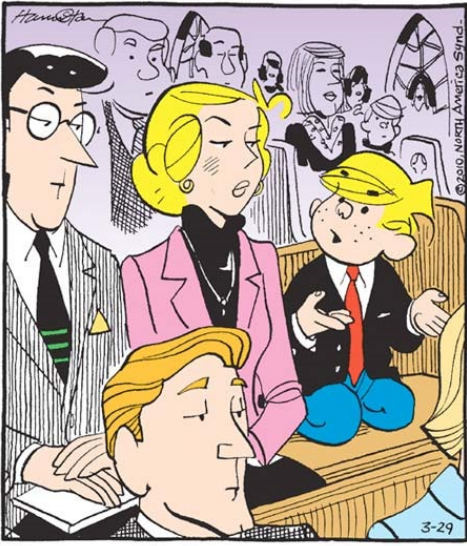
¹ From Questions & Answers on the Shorter Catechism by John Brown (Haddington)

- d. Our eternal happiness flows from this union being one with Christ, the eternal life, we must live forever in and with him - ***For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*** - ***Colossians 3:3-4***

Applications ²

1. The gospel is the best news ever heard in the world, and the most excellent offer made to poor sinners - ***To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,*** - ***Ephesians 3:8***
2. God deals very liberally and kindly with people that answer his call. - ***For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.*** ***Psalm 84:11***
3. Whatever we lose by complying with and following the gospel-call, we are gainers - ***Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ*** - ***Philippians 3:8.***
4. Motives to the lost
 - a. If you do not have the call, you have no part in the benefits.
 - b. If you come to Christ, you will have these benefits.
 - i. ***let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*** - ***Isaiah 55:7***
 - ii. ***But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,*** - ***John 1:12***
 - iii. ***And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*** - ***1 Corinthians 6:11***
5. To the converted
 - a. Know your great privileges for time and eternity - ***Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities, you will never fall.*** - ***2 Peter 1:10***
 - b. Be thankful for these - ***See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*** - ***1 John 3:1***
 - c. Walk in holiness, contentedly, patiently, and cheerfully in the hope of glory that is to come.

² From Thomas Boston – A Complete Body of Divinity



"HOW COME I HAFTA BE QUIET? ARE PEOPLE TRYIN' TO SLEEP?"