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)

- i. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
 you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'
 If you take away the yoke from your midst,
 the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, Isaiah
 58:9
- b. The communion of interest is our actual title to, and possession of Christ himself, and his purchased blessings
 - i. My beloved is mine, and I am his;he grazes among the lilies. Song of Songs 2:16
 - ii. 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.
- 3. We share these blessings in this life, at death, and at the resurrection.
 - a. The blessings in this life are justification, adoption, and sanctification, and such benefits as in this life flow from them. (Romans 8).
 - i. These blessings relate to effectual calling as they all flow from our union with Christ obtained in it 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.
 - ii. Justification flows from union with Christ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21.
 - iii. Adoptions flows from union with Christ as we are made children of God in Christ Jesus - for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. Galatians 3:26
 - iv. Sanctification flows from our union with Christ as he is the head of our influence, he becomes our strength and satisfaction. 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.
 - b. A happy death flows from this union as it draws our departing souls to Christ's presence and renders the grave a perfumed bed for our bodies.
 - i. And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"- Revelation 14:13
 - ii. Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise.

You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light,

and the earth will give birth to the dead. - Isaiah 26:19

- iii. he enters into peace;
 - they rest in their beds

who walk in their uprightness- Isaiah 57:2

c. A happy resurrection flows from union with Christ the resurrection and life we must be raised as members of his body (See Isaiah 26)

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 BEQUIET? ARE PEOPLE TRYIN' TO SLEEP?"