

What is a Christian? The question can be answered in many ways, but the richest answer I know is that a Christian is one who has God as His father (J.I. Packer)

O how people often stand amazed at worldly and passing happinesses; but how rarely do you find a man who is ravished and overwhelmed with joy in this: that he is a CHILD OF GOD! (William Perkins)

- Last week we looked at **justification**, and now we come to the *\*result\** of justification: **adoption**.
  - **Justification** happens in the courtroom; **Adoption** brings us into the Family’s house.
  - **Justification** is when God accepts us as Judge; **Adoption** is when God embraces us as Father.
  - **Justification** involves a legal relationship; **Adoption** involves a tender relationship.
  - **Justification** is in terms of law; **Adoption** comes to us in terms of love.

**THESIS — From Titus 3.7, I will show you the soul-ravishing privileges of being an heir of eternal life! We’ll see 4 privileges.**

Being an heir of eternal life means:

1. You are **adopted** as a child of God
2. You have an **inheritance** ‘in Christ’
3. You stand in a **hope** unshakeable
4. You have & will receive **eternal life**

## **I. YOU ARE ADOPTED AS A CHILD OF GOD (7a)**

Thomas Boston said: “calling God Father is worth more than a thousand worlds!”

## **II. YOU HAVE AN INHERITANCE ‘IN CHRIST’ (7b)**

The overarching privilege of adoption is best summarized as **HEIRSHIP**. God’s adopted children are all royal heirs apparent and coheirs with Christ. (Joel Beeke)

**Titus 3:7 — “The Christian’s Crowning Comfort: A Child of God & An Heir of Eternal Life!”**

- we have the **inheritance** among ALL who are sanctified (Acts 20.32)
- all who are forgiven have an **inheritance** among those who are sanctified thru faith in Christ (Acts 26.18)
- we have received an **inheritance**, having been predestined by God (EPH 1.11)
- the SPIRIT is the pledge of our **inheritance** (EPH 1.14)
- no sinner practicing sin has any **INHERITANCE** in the kingdom of Christ and God (EPH 5.5)
- The Father has qualified us to share in the **inheritance** of the saints of light (Col 1.12)
- FROM the LORD we receive the **inheritance** (Col 3.24)
- Those who have been called will receive the promise of the future **inheritance** (Heb 9.15)
- we have been born again to obtain an **inheritance** (1 Pet 1.4)

This inheritance is:

- (1) Undeserved (undeserved, unmerited);
- (2) Unfading (permanent/cannot be taken away);
- (3) Unfathomable (eternal, full, rich, reward, heaven).

**III. YOU STAND IN A HOPE UNSHAKEABLE (7c)**

**Hope** is the inward response to the Godward promise. Hope is the trustful expectation, the confident assurance, the earnest anticipation of God’s promises which are guaranteed because of His character!

**IV. YOU HAVE & WILL RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE (7d)****Five comforts that you have in being an “Heir” -- a Child of God!**

1. The simplest believer is a great heir to **all** God’s best blessings.
2. As heirs, God will provide for his children.
3. We may boldly come to our Father with any request or burden knowing that He will hear & answer.

**Titus 3:7 — “The Christian’s Crowning Comfort: A Child of God & An Heir of Eternal Life!”**

4. Whatever hardship & loss may come, you are still a child of God & will not lose your inheritance.
  - ❖ *Thomas Taylor said: “You may lose your liberty, your living, your friends, and your life, but your inheritance is reserved in the heavens.”*
5. In hardships, your Father may frown and discipline you, but He will never disinherit you.

**What are duties & responsibilities you have as an heir of eternal life?**

1. Revere Your Father [honor him]
2. Love Your Father [he loves you]
3. Submit to Your Father’s Providence [all he brings]
4. Obey Your Father
5. Love Your Father’s Children [love the brethren]
6. Resist Temptations to Complain [no grumbling]
7. Rejoice in Your Father’s Presence [commune]

**This grand truth of adoption & heirship is:**

- ❖ Comforting — haven for the soul!
- ❖ Motivating — fuel for holiness!
- ❖ Humbling — astonishing wonder that I’m a son!
- ❖ Reassuring — hope in battling sin!

**In your temptations to doubt, heed the pastoral counsel from Samuel Willard:**

- Say to your self: “Am I not still a child? And if so, then I am sure, that though he correct me [and I deserve it, nor will I refuse to submit myself patiently unto it) yet he cannot take away his lovingkindness from me! ...”
- Then Willard concluded with this charge: “Be always comforting of your selves with the thoughts of your adoption. Draw your comforts at this tap, fetch your consolations from this relation; be therefore often chewing upon the precious privileges of it, and make them your rejoicing. Let this joy out-strip the sparkle of every other joy. Let this joy dispel the mists of every sorrow, and clear up your souls in the midst of all troubles and difficulties as you await heavenly glory, where you will live out your perfect adoption by forever communing with the Triune God. There you will dwell at the fountain, swim for ever in those bankless, and bottomless oceans of glory!”

## Christ the Sure & Steady Anchor

Christ the sure and steady anchor, in the fury of the storm  
 When the winds of doubt blow through me, and my sails have all been torn  
 In the suff'ring, in the sorrow, when my sinking hopes are few  
 I will hold fast to the anchor, it shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady anchor, while the tempest rages on  
 When temptation claims the battle, and it seems the night has won  
 Deeper still then goes the anchor, though I justly stand accused  
 I will hold fast to the anchor, it shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady anchor, through the floods of unbelief  
 Hopeless somehow, O my soul now, lift your eyes to Calvary  
 This my ballast of assurance, see His love forever proved  
 I will hold fast to the anchor, it shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady anchor, as we face the wave of death  
 When these trials give way to glory, and we draw our final breath  
 We will cross that great horizon, clouds behind and life secure  
 And the calm will be the better, for the storms that we endure

Christ the shore of our salvation, ever faithful ever true  
 We will hold fast to the anchor, it shall never be removed

No condemnation now I dread;  
 Jesus, and all in Him is mine!  
 Alive in Him, my living Head,  
 And clothed in righteousness divine,  
 Bold I approach th'eternal throne,  
 And claim the crown, through Christ my own.  
 Amazing love! how can it be  
 That Thou, my God, should die for me!  
 — Charles Wesley