

The Principles of Christian Religion

**A Study through the Baptist
Catechism using Benjamin
Beddome's *Scriptural Exposition***

Outline of the BC

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- II. What We are to Believe: 7-43
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Outline of Questions 23-43

Question 23	Redemption Administered	<i>Pactum Salutis</i>	From the Father
Questions 24-31	Redemption Accomplished	<i>Historia Salutis</i>	Through the Son
Questions 32-43	Redemption Applied	<i>Ordo Salutis</i>	By the Holy Spirit

Outline of Questions 32-43

- Application of Redemption (Q. 32-33)
 - Effectual Calling (Q. 34)
 - Benefits in this Life (Q. 35)
 - Justification (Q. 36)
 - Adoption (Q. 37)
 - Sanctification (Q. 38)
 - Attendant Benefits (Q. 39)
 - Benefits at Death (Q. 40)
 - Benefits at the Resurrection (Q. 41)
 - [Unbelievers at Death (Q. 42)]
 - [Unbelievers at the Day of Judgment (Q. 43)]

Intro to the *Ordo Salutis*

- *Ordo Salutis* refers to the distinct acts of the application of redemption and how they are related to each other.
- Traditional Order (2LCF 3.6; ch. 10-17):
 - Effectual Calling/Regeneration
 - Conversion (Faith/Repentance)
 - Justification
 - Adoption
 - Sanctification/Perseverance
 - Glorification

Question and Answer 37

Q. 37: What is adoption?

A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace,¹ whereby we are received into the number and have a right to all of the privileges of the sons of God.²

¹ 1 John 3:1

² John 1:12; Romans 8:14

Question and Answer 36

- Introduction to Adoption
 - The Glorious Privilege of Adoption
 - John Murray (RAA): “Adoption, as the term clearly implies, is an act of transfer from an alien family into the family of God himself. This is surely the apex of grace and privilege. We would not dare to conceive of such grace far less to claim it apart from God’s own revelation and assurance. It staggers imagination because of its amazing condescension and love It is only as there is the conjunction of the witness of revelation and the inward witness of the Spirit in our hearts that we are able to scale this pinnacle of faith and say with filial confidence and love, Abba Father.”
 - I John 3:1

Question and Answer 36

- Introduction to Adoption
 - The Relationship between Adoption and Justification
 - Adoption is sometimes treated as merely an aspect of justification or regeneration, not as a separate step in the *ordo salutis*.
 - But neither of these necessarily imply adoption.
 - Adoption is often placed in opposition to justification as being more “relational” rather than just coldly “legal.”
 - Yet there are relational and legal aspects to both.
 - » Relational aspect of justification: Rom. 5:1
 - » Legal aspect of adoption: Rom. 8:15-17

Question and Answer 36

- Introduction to Adoption
 - The Relationship between Adoption and Justification
 - Adoption flows from justification: justification must come first.
 - Gal. 4:4-5
 - Tit. 3:7
 - This makes sense: how could God welcome into His family one who has not yet had his sins cleansed and been declared righteous?

Question and Answer 36

1. The Nature of Adoption

- Some are the sons of God by creation (Job. 38:7).
- And others by an external profession (Exo. 4:23).
- But the saints are so by adoption (Gal. 4:5).

Question and Answer 36

1. The Nature of Adoption

- John Murray: “the several kinds of divine Fatherhood found in the Scriptures”
 - Intratrinitarian Fatherhood
 - Creative Fatherhood
 - Acts 17:28, 29; Heb. 12:9; Jam. 1:17; Luke 3:38
 - “It is noteworthy how infrequently the creative relation is expressed in terms of fatherhood. Nowhere is God expressly called the Father of all men. Hence the concept of universal fatherhood, if used at all, must be employed with great caution and it is particularly necessary not to confuse this rare use of the term Father with the frequent use of the same term as it is applied to the redeemed.”

Question and Answer 36

1. The Nature of Adoption

- John Murray: “the several kinds of divine Fatherhood found in the Scriptures”
 - Theocratic Fatherhood
 - “This refers to God’s adoption of Israel as his chosen people. It is the prototype of redemptive adoption as the Old Testament counterpart.”
 - Adoptive Fatherhood
 - “This must be distinguished from the fatherhood of the preceding caption, not because it is principally different but because it is the full-fledged sonship in distinction from the nonage sonship in the Old Testament period. The distinction is clearly drawn by Paul in Galatians 3:23-4:6.”

Question and Answer 36

1. The Nature of Adoption

- Christ is the medium of our adoption (Eph. 1:5).
- And the exemplar of it (Rom. 8:29).
- And the end of it (Rom. 8:29).
- And grace is the motive of it (Eph. 1:5, 6).

Question and Answer 36

2. The Privileges of Adoption

- The saints receive the nature of sons (2 Pet. 1:4).
- And the Spirit of sons (Gal. 4:6).
- And the provision of Sons (Psa. 34:10).
- And the inheritance of sons (Gal. 4:7).
 - This was the primary concern of adoption in the ancient world.
 - What is our “inheritance”?

Question and Answer 36

2. The Privileges of Adoption

- God's children are the objects of his pity (Psa. 103:13).
- And of his care (Isa. 1:2).
- They are strongly defended (Prov. 14:26).
- And honourably attended (Psa. 91:11).
- And if chastened, it is in love (Heb. 12:6).
 - Fatherly Discipline vs. Judicial Punishment
 - 2LCF 11.5; 12.1

Question and Answer 36

3. The Duties of Adoption

a. To God as our Father

- God's children should then go to him as a Father (Luke 15:18).
- And reverence him as a Father (Mal. 1:6).
- And imitate him (Matt. 5:48).
- And obey him (1 Pet. 1:14).
- And submit to his chastisement (Heb. 12:5).

Question and Answer 36

3. The Duties of Adoption

b. To the Saints as our Brethren

- All the saints have one Father (Mal. 2:10).
- They should therefore love as brethren (2 Pet. 1:7).
- And the neglect hereof is a great sin (Mal. 2:10).