

# THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH XII. OF ADOPTION

Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

Pastor Rick Phillips

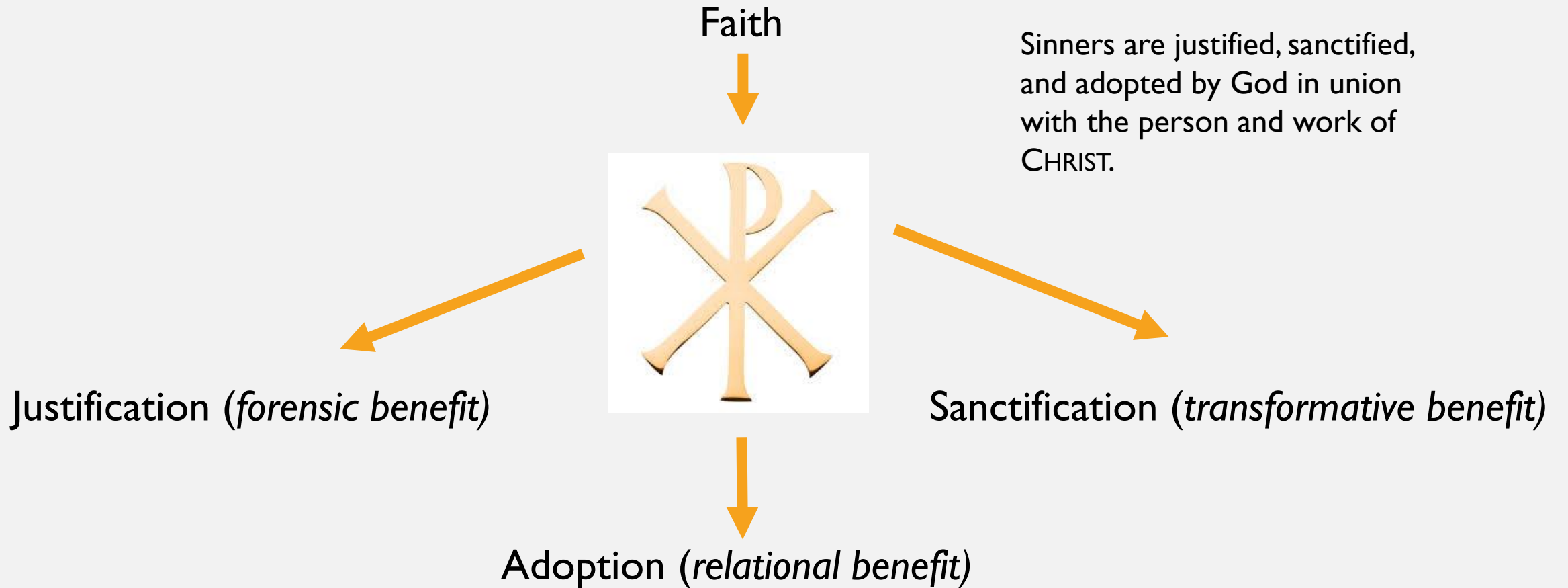
## THE GRACE OF ADOPTION

All those that are justified, God vouchsafeth, 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.

# I. THE GRACE OF ADOPTION

- The Confession's shortest chapter
- *"Partakers of the grace of adoption"* – brought into the family of God as "dearly beloved children" (Eph. 5:1)
  - Acquitted of guilt and brought into the family of the judge.
  - God's desire for us to know his love as members of his family: "a total change of relation to God" (A.A. Hodge).
  - "What a freedom it is to be able to address God as our Father even though he is in heaven and we on earth! What a privilege it is to have brothers and sisters in every corner of the globe!" (Van Dixhoorn).
- *"Taken into the number, ... of the children of God [and] have his name put upon them."*
  - "to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (Jn. 1:12).
  - "I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty" (2 Cor. 6:18).
  - "and I will write on him the name of my God" (Rev. 3:12).
  - "I am ascending to my Father and your Father" (Jn. 20:17).

# I. THE GRACE OF ADOPTION



But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ... So that we might receive adoption as sons" (Gal. 4:4-5).

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The Privileges of Adoption: *“enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God”*

- Spiritual Assurance: *“receive the Spirit of adoption.”*
  - “You have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (Rom. 8:15-16).
- Prayer: *“have access to the throne of grace with boldness”*
  - “Our Father, who art in heaven” (Mt. 6:9).
  - “If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Lk. 11:13).

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The Privileges of Adoption: *“enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God”*

- Fatherly Care: *“are pitied, protected, provided for.”*
  - “As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him” (Ps. 103:13).
  - “In the fear of the LORD one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge” (Prov. 14:26).
  - “Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all” (Mt. 6:31-32).
- Discipline: *“and chastened by him, as by a father”*
  - “For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives... he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness” (Heb. 12:6, 10).

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The Privileges of Adoption: *“enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God”*

- Never Cast Off: *“yet never cast off, but sealed to the day of redemption”*
  - “For the Lord will not cast off forever, but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion” (Lam. 3:31).
  - “He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete in the day of Christ Jesus” (Phil. 1:6).
  - “No one can snatch you out of my Father’s hand” (Jn. 10:29).
- Inheritance: *“and inherit the promises, as heirs of everlasting salvation.”*
  - “if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him” (Rom. 8:17).
  - “to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Pet. 1:4-5).
  - “Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Mt. 25:34).