

Westminster Confession of Faith: Session Thirteen

WCF 12 – Of Adoption

“As many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” (Romans 8:14-17 NKJV).

I. Introduction

a. *Logical Connection in the Ordo Salutis*

b. *Adoption in the Ordo Salutis*

II. WCF Chapter XII

a. *The Exclusive Privilege of Adoption*

Universal Fatherhood of God/Brotherhood of Man?

b. *The Blessings of Adoption*

i. Vouchsafing

“To condescend to grant”

“To be done with danger”

ii. Brought into the Number of God’s Children

iii. Liberties and Privileges

Immunity from Evil of Affliction

Interest in All the Promises

iv. A Name

1 John 3:1-2

v. The Spirit of Adoption

Romans 8:15

- vi. Access to the Throne of Grace
Contrast with Isaiah 6

- vii. Having God as Father
Pitied

Protected

Provided for

Chastened

- viii. Eternal Security

- ix. An Inheritance
Romans 8:17

III. Application

Helpful Resources

Beattie, Francis R. *The Presbyterian Standards: An Exposition of the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms*. Richmond, VA: Presbyterian Committee of Publication, 1896; pp. 212-222.

Hodge, Archibald Alexander. *A Commentary on the Confession of Faith*. Philadelphia, PA: Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath-School Work, 1869; pp. 260-263.

———. *Outlines of Theology*. Rewritten and Enlarged. New York, NY: Hodder & Stoughton, 1878; pp. 515-519.

R. C. Sproul, *Truths We Confess: A Systematic Exposition of the Westminster Confession of Faith*, Revised Edition. (Orlando, FL: Reformation Trust Publishing, 2019), pp. 282-288.

Van Dixhoorn, Chad. *Confessing the Faith: A Reader's Guide to the Westminster Confession of Faith*. Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2014; pp. 171-175.

Watson, Thomas. *A Body of Divinity*. Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1958; pp. 155-160.