

Theology Simply Explained — WSC36 Believers' Further Benefits in This Life

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 36. What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption and sanctification? **The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption and sanctification, are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.**

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The shorter. Catechism question for this week is what are the benefits? Which in this life? You accompany? Or flow from justification. Adoption and sanctification. And the answer for this week is the benefits which in this life, do a company airflow from justification adoptions. Sanctification are assurance of God's love piece of conscience.

Joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace and perseverance there, in the end. So of the fact that you are made right with God, through faith in Jesus Christ in which you are credited, with his righteousness and sacrifice justification. And the fact that you are adopted by God brought into the number of and granted.

All right, to all the privileges of the sons of God. And that you are being sanctified. Meaning you're renewed in the whole man after the image of God and our enabled more and more time to send them to live. And the righteousness, these three things that God gives us and this life gives us.

Now these five other things that we are considering this week, First of all, assurance of God's love. Why Well how did someone come to be predestined to be conformed to the image of his son and justified? Well, he came to be predestined to be conform to the image of his son and justified because God foreknew him, the last part of Romans 8 talks about not being separated from the love of God, that is in Christ Jesus.

And the reason God can never stop loving a Christian is because God never started loving a Christian. His love to the believer has begun in himself. If Adno starting time, how could it ever have a stopping dime? And so as you realize that you are right with God through faith in Jesus Christ and that you are adopted as his own son which is something His Holy Spirit convinces you of and that you are being sanctified.

That every good thought feeling, desired, speech action, everything comes only from him who has renewed you and now, as enabling you as you do this battle of fighting against sin and pursue this race of growing in righteousness, as you realize that you're justification, adoption and sanctification, you are assured of God's love.

And also you have peace of conscience that if you are right with God through faith in Jesus Christ, you have peace with Him that there is therefore now no condemnation. Now already for those who are in Christ Jesus. And so you don't just have these these technical statuses of right with God and legally adopted.

And you don't just have this dynamic work or power at work in you of sanctification. You actually have a personal alliance with God that he is entirely favorable towards you. Jesus has entirely propitiated, the wrath of God, that was against you. And now he bends all things in heaven and earth because he's the one who works all things according to the council as well.

He bends them all for your good and this gives you peace of conscience. You know that Jesus is righteousness, is perfect, you know, that Jesus is blood has fully satisfied. You know that Jesus's person is equal to the person of the Father because they are the same and substance and equal and power and glory.

And so, your conscience says, I have Christ I don't have guilt. I don't have condemnation. I don't have God against me. Even when his fatherly displeasure disciplines me like he does for all of his true children. He is giving me that holiness that is necessary for me to see him.

So you get assurance of God's love, a love that didn't never had a beginning and cannot have an end peace of conscience. The absolute certain you are a certain that God is for you. God is as much for you. As Jesus is God, You have peace of confidence. You have joy in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Spirit, the Holy Ghost to causes you to know God, as your father makes you to rejoice.

This is what the Lord Jesus in the Sermon. On the Mount keeps saying, God, takes care of everything. He takes care of birds, it takes care of flowers, but he's not the birds as heavenly Father. He's not the flowers. Heavenly Father, the one who takes care of everything else.

Is your heavenly father? So everything he he does is with fatherly delight in and love towards you. And as the Holy Spirit trains your heart to call him Abba and as the Holy Spirit makes you recognize, not just father, but also the son and trains your heart to know Jesus Christ.

As Lord, Then you're able to rejoice in being a child of God and rejoice in knowing Jesus Christ as your Lord, You can rejoice in the Lord. Always This is one of the reasons why the first two aspects of that fruit that the Holy Spirit produces in us are not just love.

The love of God shed abroad in our hearts so that we might know His love. And we might love him because he first loved us. But also joy the pleasure of knowing God is your Father and Jesus Christ as your Savior. So assurance of God's love peace of conscience.

Joy in the Holy Ghost increase of grace. We grow by the grace and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. A little translation difference there at the end of second Peter. The dative there is not a dative of spear so much as a date. Of means It's the grace of Christ that we have that grows us.

It's knowing Christ whom we have and whom we know that grows us. In other words is impossible for a Christian. Not to grow. Can you have this grace and it not grow? You Is it possible to have and this grace and to know such a Lord and to not be grown by him.

And so the apostle who in another place Peter it tells them to pursue and add all these things to their faith. And he says, if these are yours and increasing, you'll be sure and entrance will be, thus plentifully supplied to you to the kingdom of heaven. He concludes the second of his letters by saying that if you have the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, if you know, Jesus Christ as your Lord, you will grow.

And you pronounces that as a blessing upon them And so you will have increase of grace. We feel our need of increase of grace very much but one of the things that will help you when you're discouraged by feeling like you're not increasing at all or that the increases so small that you can't see it or that the expression of your remaining sinfulfulness and your heart and mind and and words and actions are such that, you wonder if you are going backwards, you say no have

justification have adoption, have sanctification have the grace of Christ at the knowledge of Christ and those who have him and these things they increase in grace, You don't look to yourself.

You don't look to how sorry you are this time or how hard you plan to try. You look to Christ and you say these are benefits that flow from my justification and my adoption and my sanctification. I have him. So I have assurance of God's love. I have peace of conscience.

Have joy of the Holy Ghost, and I have increase of grace. And then, of course, and perseverance therein to the end. He who began the good work in us. Will bring it to completion. This is so certain that in Romans 80 says those whom he justified he also passed tense glorified even after just a few verses earlier.

He says, we eagerly groan that the creation groans and we who have the first fruits of the Spirit grown and that the spirit himself who intercedes for us, he groans towards the day. When we will be glorified and yet, even though that groaning longs for it as future, the grammar, that almost immediately follows says, it's so sure.

Then we can speak of it as something that is as certain as something that is in the past. So it's a numerical identity, those whom he forego you same group, He also predestined to be what Conformed to the image of his son. Those whom he predestined until we call the also justified.

Those whom he also justified. He also glorified. And so, if you have justification and adoption and sanctification, you know, you must persevere God's grace, which laid hold of. You will not let go of you, as Jesus said, both of his father and of himself. No one is able to pry those who belong to Him.

Out of his father's hand or out of his own hand. And this is how we come to him. We are the fathers the father draws us. Drags us like hand over hand drawing of the bucket from a well The father draws us to Christ and he lays hold of us and the father lays hold of us and of course the spirit.

Also, lays hold of us, nothing can take us out of their hand. This increase of grass is going to be completed until it is perfected and that's why we must persevere to the end. What a marvelous bunch of benefits that in this life, a company and flow from justification, adoption and sanctification.