

An Exposition of the 2nd (1689) London Baptist Confession

Chapter 12.1: Of Adoption

12.1 All those that are justified, God conferred, in and for the sake of his only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace of adoption,^a by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God,^b have his name put on them,^c receive the spirit of adoption,^d have access to the throne of grace with boldness, are enabled to cry Abba, Father,^e are pitied,^f protected,^g provided for,^h and chastened by him as by a Father,ⁱ yet never cast off,^j but sealed to the day of redemption,^k and inherit the promises as heirs of everlasting salvation.^l

^a Eph. 1:5; Gal. 4:4–5 ^b John 1:12; Rom. 8:17 ^c 2 Cor. 6:18; Rev. 3:12 ^d Rom. 8:15 ^e Gal. 4:6; Eph. 2:18 ^f Ps. 103:13

^g Prov. 14:26; 1 Pet. 5:7 ^h Heb. 12:6 ⁱ Isa. 54:8–9 ^j Lam. 3:31 ^k Eph. 4:30 ^l Heb. 1:14, 6:12

1 John 3:1

See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us,
that we would be called children of God; and such we are.”

1. The recipients of adoption.

a. All those that are **justified** (Galatians 4:4-5).

b. **All** those that are justified (Romans 8:29-30).

2. The author of adoption (Ephesians 1:5; Romans 8:23).

a. God, the sovereign, conferred to make partakers **of the grace** of adoption.

b. God, the Father, conferred to make partakers of the **grace of adoption**.

3. The mediator of adoption.

a. **In** His only Son Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:5-6).

b. **For the sake of** His only Son Jesus Christ (Isaiah 53:10; Ephesians 1:18; 5:32).

4. The blessings of adoption.
 - a. We are taken into the number as children (John 1:12).

 - b. We enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God (2 Corinthians 6:18).
 - i. We have His name put upon us (Revelation 3:12).

 - ii. We receive the spirit of adoption (Romans 8:15).

 - iii. We have access to the throne of grace with boldness (Ephesians 3:12; Hebrews 4:16).

 - iv. We are enabled to cry Abba, Father (Romans 8:15).

 - c. We are cared for as children.
 - i. We are pitied as by a Father (Psalm 103:13).

 - ii. We are protected as by a Father (Proverbs 14:26).

 - iii. We are provided for as by a Father (1 Peter 5:7).

 - iv. We are chastened as by a Father (Hebrews 12:6).

 - d. We are never cast off, but sealed to the day of redemption (Lamentations 3:31; Ephesians 4:30).

 - e. We inherit the promises as heirs of everlasting salvation (Hebrews 1:14; 6:12; 2 Corinthians 1:20).