

### Discussion Questions

- How important is it for Christians to live holy lives?
- How can we try to live holy like God without turning our works into works-righteousness?
- Do you have any sinful habits you need to repent of and ask for forgiveness?

### **Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse**

Have you ever looked forward to Christmas, or your birthday? I (Pastor Joshua) used to wait eagerly for Christmas morning to come so that I could dive into the presents that had been piling up under our tree. When the day would arrive I could finally dig in. What a delight! Sometimes it felt like there was no end to the presents as more and more gifts would appear. Eventually, though, the presents would run out and the joy of opening would transition into other festivities. The blessings of God that flow from our calling, justification, adoption, and sanctification are like that mound of presents from many years ago. Yet, where my presents eventually ran out, the blessings that God brings to his people truly are unending. These blessings are good because they come from the love and good pleasure of our Savior. These blessings are unending because they come from the hand of our infinite God. Romans 10:12 *...the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.*

### Discussion Questions

- What are some blessings that you can think of that come to Christians in this life?
- Take some prayer time to thank God for his blessings he has given us in Christ.

# Baptist Catechism Family Worship Guide



## West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024)

### Baptist Catechism Question #35

**Q:** What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?

**A:** *They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption, sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them.*

### Suggested Memory Verse

Romans 8:30 *And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

### **Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse**

In John Bunyan's classic Pilgrim's Progress the title character flees from the City of Destruction because he realizes Judgement Day is coming. He knows he will be judged for his sins. As Christian flees he cries out for that which he is hoping to gain, "Life, life, eternal life!" We learned last week that when God calls someone with the Effectual Call, He gives them a new heart and they are born again. God's Spirit makes them ready and able to believe in Jesus. If you have believed in Jesus then he promises you eternal life, just like what Christian hoped to gain at the beginning of The Pilgrim's Progress. What do you think that promise of life means for you? Does it mean that after you die you will be resurrected and live forever with Jesus? It most certainly does include that! But what about the time between when you believe and when you die? Do you just have to somehow make it through or does the life God gives you affect those days as well? It most certainly does! When you are born again it changes the rest of your life, from that day forward. 1 Timothy 4:8 *...godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and for the life to come.* Paul encourages Timothy that his new life in Christ promises blessing in both this life and in the resurrection!

#### Discussion Question

- In what ways are we able to experience eternal life here and now, before the resurrection?
- Do you have eternal life?

### **Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse**

The catechism speaks of 3 big benefits every believer receives from God when he is born again. The first of these we are going to look at is justification. Romans 8:30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. Paul tells us in this verse that everyone who is called by God, speaking of the Effectual Call or New Birth, is justified. But what does it mean to be justified? We will be looking at this more next week. For today, however, we can look at the children's catechism for a good answer. The catechism states, "Justification is God regarding sinners as if they had never sinned and granting them righteousness." Justification is how God looks at us. We are sinners and as a righteous judge He should look at us and declare us, 'Guilty!' The wonderful news of the gospel is that Jesus was judged a sinner in our place on the cross. In a sense, God looked at the perfect, spotless Jesus and declared him guilty on the cross. Jesus took our place! The result is that for everyone who trusts in Jesus, God looks at him now and declares, 'innocent,' 'righteous!'

#### Discussion Questions

- How should we respond to God knowing that He has looked at us and declared us innocent?
- What sort of life should this encourage us to live?

### **Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse**

The second benefit the catechism speaks of for those who are born again is adoption. Adoption has a special place in many families. I (Pastor Joshua) have been blessed by God with two children through adoption. Though they were not born into my family they were brought into my family by God and I now call them my children and they call me Dad! Do you know anyone else who has been adopted? Adoption is not just a way that children come into earthly families. It is also the way sinners come into the family of God. Paul connects adoption as children of God with our effectual calling (being born again). Romans 8:28-29 *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.* We who have been called by God were brought into God's family and are brothers and sisters to Jesus Christ. He is the 'natural born' Son of God. Jesus, as the second person of the Trinity, has always been the Son of God. He is called the 'Only Begotten' Son of God pointing to what we term the eternal generation of the Son. When Jesus took on a human nature he did this so that he could bring us with him into God's family as adopted sons.

#### Discussion Questions

- What are different ways God brings children into our earthly families?
- Do you think God treats us as His true children, or just second-best? Why?

### **Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse**

The third main benefit that the catechism speaks of for those who are born again is sanctification. Earlier this week we addressed the nature of justification and how it is God looking at us and seeing the righteousness of Jesus. He looks at us who believe in Jesus and says, 'righteous!' Sanctification is a further step by which God then makes us what he has already declared us to be. He makes us holy. The children's catechism says it this way. 'Sanctification is God making sinners holy in heart and conduct.' In some ways God calls us holy from the moment we believe. That is why Christians are all called 'saints'. In other ways the Bible talks about holiness as something that God slowly grows in us. This process of sanctification is the slow working of the Spirit of God. He does this by showing us when we sin. He gives us grace to repent of these sins day-by-day. He gives us power to walk more and more like Jesus. Hebrews 12:14 calls Christians to work hard to grow in holiness. *Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.* Yet this is something we can't do apart from God's power. Philippians 2:13 *...it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*