

abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. Has your fruit grown? Have you seen your grace abound?

Discussion Questions

- If you are a Christian, in what ways have you grown in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ recently?
- Take a minute to pray for God to increase your faith and grant you growing grace.

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Our final benefit that flows from justification, adoption, and sanctification is a perseverance in the faith. A Christian's confidence that they will persevere is not rooted in their own abilities or faithfulness but in God's ability to make us faithful. Romans 14:4 *Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.* Perseverance flows from justification because our debt HAS BEEN paid. It's done. It flows from adoption because as a child of God, He will not let us go astray but will discipline and shepherd us to the end. It flows from sanctification because as we are set apart and made increasingly holy, we are conformed more to the image of Christ and are brought by Him to that final day of glorification. *He Will Hold Me Fast* is a song that captures this so well. Consider some of the lyrics: "When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast... He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last; Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast. For my life He bled and died... Justice has been satisfied, He will hold me fast!" Perseverance is a work of God, and it is a true benefit of our salvation.

Discussion Questions

- If you can find a songbook or recording online, sing "He Will Hold Me Fast" and praise God for His gift of perseverance.

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, June 9th, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #39

Q: What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

A: *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 Spirit increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Romans 5:1–2 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. [2] Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (ESV)

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

A few weeks ago we began looking at what the effectual call is and then at its primary benefits: justification, adoption, and sanctification. We will now wrap up this series of related questions with a look at five additional benefits that flow from the first three. For starters, Christians benefit from an assurance of God's love. We all want to be loved by our parents, family, and friends, but even more so do we as Christians desire the love of God. The Bible says some walk trembling before the Lord and others never attain full assurance (Hosea 11:10). This is sad because a Christian who has been saved might go about their lives scared of our heavenly Father as IF they may be under condemnation. They are not under condemnation if they've been saved (Romans 8:1). How are we assured that God loves us? First of all, the Bible tells us so! 1 John 4:16 says... *So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.* Romans 15:4 also tells us that scripture gives us hope. Next, we have the Holy Spirit that tells our spirit that God loves us (Romans 8:16). We also have a conscience that tells us that God loves us (2 Cor 1:12). As Christians grow and mature, their sanctification will lead to assurance. We should wait for that assurance, hope for it, work for it, and rejoice in it with thankfulness when we receive it (Isaiah 8:17, Psalm 42:11, Hebrews 6:11, Habakkuk 3:18).

Discussion Question

- Do you ever doubt that God loves you?
- What evidence do you have to assure you of God's love?
- How can you grow in your assurance?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Another one of the benefits in this life as a Christian is to have peace. I have watched many people get up every day stressed over many things. They did something wrong and somebody may find out, or they accidentally broke something and don't want to have to confess what they did. Even more stressful are worries about eternity and whether they are going to hell or not. When someone has believed a lie and/or suppressed the truth about God, it brings turmoil to their soul. In a search for relief or peace, they may turn to drugs, wrong relationships, alcohol, or try to be smarter, stronger, or better than anybody else and essentially turn themselves into an idol. It doesn't work, though. The Bible says true peace belongs only to the saints (Isaiah 57:21). In John 14:27, Jesus says, *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."* Peace comes from God as a result of our justification, because we know the sin in our lives has been forgiven (Matthew 9:2). This peace is better than all worldly knowledge. Philippians 4:7 *And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* What a benefit this peace is to us as Christians.

Discussion Questions

- What things tend to trouble you?
- Have you trusted God to bring you eternal peace? How about peace in that problem area of your life?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The third benefit that flows to us as Christians is joy in the Holy Spirit. 1 Peter 1:8–9 says... *Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.* It is the Holy Spirit who regenerated our hearts and gave us that joy that is inexpressible. There is a unique connection between joy and the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. Luke said he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit (Luke 10:21), Paul said he received the word with the joy of the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 1:6-7) or again that the kingdom of God is about righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17). The Holy Spirit was a gift to us and so is the joy that He brings. Jesus said in John 15:11, *"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."* God calls us *to rejoice always (1 Thessalonians 5:16)*. Those who do not belong to God can't truly rejoice. Hosea 9:1 *Rejoice not, O Israel! Exult not like the peoples; for you have played the whore, forsaking your God.* Apart from God, what is there to rejoice in? Ah... but as an adopted heir with Christ, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, how can a Christian NOT rejoice? Joy is a precious benefit to those who are saved by faith in Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions

- How would you describe the difference between happiness and joy?
- What can you rejoice for today?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

A fourth benefit of being a Christian is that we can increase and grow in grace. 2 Peter 3:18 *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.* To grow in grace is to mature as a Christian. To be conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29). The apostles had this same desire to grow in grace when they said to the Lord "increase our faith" (Luke 17:5). We can grow in God's grace by reading His Word (Colossians 3:16), by praying, by joining together for worship, and hearing the Word preached. The way to grow is by meditating on the Scriptures and applying their principles to our lives as we yield to the conviction and power of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. Ephesians 4:15 says we are to grow in all graces. I have often said the fruit of the Spirit is just one fruit with a variety of traits. You don't get to pick and choose (for example, "I've got joy but not patience"). No, as a Christian, you are given all the fruit of the Spirit, but to greater and lesser degrees. That's why we grow. 2 Thessalonians 1:3 is an example of this grace growing. *We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing*