

What then are the dignities and privileges bestowed by Almighty God on children? In the first place children by Baptism become the adopted children of God, heirs of heaven, co-heirs with Jesus Christ, the temples of the Holy Ghost, and destined to be denizens of heaven, where being a Royal Priesthood, as St. Peter says, thrones, sceptres, and crowns await them. They are to dwell there in eternal bliss, among angels, archangels, principalities, dominations, cherubims and seraphims ascending in grand array and terminating in the Jasper throne of the ever Blessed Virgin, the glorious mother of God, whilst to add infinite splendors to the gorgeous scene, and to perpetuate it, the lamp of the triune divinity shines forth in all its native splendor. It is quite manifest that nothing less than the simplicity of the hale and christian perfection can qualify anyone to be admitted to enjoy such glory and such indescribable and eternal happiness.

In the second place it is evident that as God has conferred such wonderful and exalted privileges on the child, making him the image of God, etc., etc., obliging him to acquire the highest perfection, and live in the highest state of sanctity, he must and will of his infinite goodness give him means to acquire such perfection and live up to this great sanctity. He does so, He endows man with reason for the 'Light of God's countenance hath shone upon him,' and purifies, strengthens, and guides that light by grace and faith, for, as the Apostle says, you are saved by 'grace through faith.' It is by means of these gifts and assistance that the child is enabled 'to grow up in Christ,' 'that he may walk worthy of God in all things pleasing, being faithful in every good work,' (Col. I, 10.), 'that he may be sincere and without offence unto the day of Christ,' (Phil. I, 10.). 'that he may be found undefiled and unspotted to him in peace,' (2 Peter. III, 4). It is by means of these, and continually co-operating with them, that he may become 'God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus in good works, which God has prepared he should walk in them,' until the final day and hour, 'he shall receive his own reward according to his labor, for he is God's coadjutor.'