

# **THE CHRISTIAN'S PRIVILEGES AND DUTIES**

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The Christian's privileges and duties by Bishop Blomfield

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**BISHOP BLOMFIELD**

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AND DUTIES**



**Leaven Leaves.**

*"A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump."*

GALATIANS v. 9.

THE CHRISTIAN'S  
**P**rivileges  
AND  
**D**uties.

By BISHOP BLOMFIELD.



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*141. x. 506.*

“ But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”—1 PETER ii. 9.



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To the profane and worldly-minded man, such a text of Scripture as that which I have just repeated is unintelligible: the confident and presumptuous may pervert it to the fostering of pride and an uncharitable spirit; but to the humble, serious, diligent Christian, it conveys, together with abundant encouragement and consolation, much of solemn admonition and of implied rebuke. In fact, no passages of Scripture are more awful to a



Christian than those which speak to him of his privileges and dignities; for he knows the end for which, he has been invested with them, the responsibilities which they involve, and the imperfect manner in which these responsibilities have been answered.

Every title of relationship or of honour which a reconciled God confers upon his adopted children, implies duties of corresponding importance: his message of reconciliation, and his promises of grace, intimate his expectations of some adequate returns. "I have chosen you and ordained you," said our blessed Lord to his apostles: Why? "That ye should go and bring forth fruit" (John xv. 16). "Now are ye light in the

Lord," exclaims St Paul, in the language of congratulation: What then? "Walk as children of light" (Eph. v. 8).

No rule of equity can be more unquestionable, or of more universal application, than this—"To whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required" (Luke xii. 48). The Christian, therefore, who knows the exceeding preciousness and importance of the talents with which he has been put in trust—who remembers that there has been given to him the pearl of great price—that he has within his grasp the unsearchable riches of Christ—cannot but tremble to think how little he may have profited by them. And when he recollects the surpassing dignities which are conferred

upon him by the Holy Spirit, who has designated him as "chosen of God, a joint heir with Christ, a priest, a king," he cannot but contrast the realities of his own religious character with the spiritual perfections implied in all and each of these appellations, under a humbling sense of his deficiencies.

At the same time he finds, in these descriptions of his privileges and immunities, abundance of encouragement and strong consolation. He reflects, that, if Christ has indeed wrought in him these glorious capacities, it could not have been with a view to his failure; that, if he must still be contented to remain far from that perfection to which his soul aspires, he is infinitely removed from