



## Fraser Prize essay 2018

The question set for the Fraser Prize 2018 was the topic of the Scottish Church Theology Society conference which was later held in January 2019:

The winning paper was by James Thieke who is a student at the University of Edinburgh. The paper was entitled:

*The Importance of Participation for Christian Children's  
Spiritual Education*

In the assessment of the Reading Panel:

In general, this paper was well structured and clearly argued with good references. It also included both experience and inclusion with regard to practice. This well-written essay importantly addresses the contemporary context of consumerism and the damaging influence the 'market model' can have on children's development, and indeed on wider relationships. It brings forces from both psychology and theology to bear on understanding of childhood development, especially in its distinction between the roles of formation and education as instruction. Vitally, it usefully develops practical ideas for implementation of participatory learning in the Church.

The prize was presented at the Scottish Church Theology Society Conference in January 2019.