

What does it mean to be Justified?

Set the Stage

-We must understand two important distinctions in the Christian life:

1. Our Standing - Complete in Jesus Christ - Final - Perfect
 2. Our State - Growing in Jesus Christ - Fluid - Progressive
- Justification deals with our standing.
 - Sanctification deals with our state.

-The book of Romans is a very deep theological book. Paul writes in great detail about the true condition of man, the way of salvation through Jesus Christ, and how we should live as a result. It is full of big Bible words such as:

- Salvation, reconciled, redemption, imputed, righteousness,

-One of those word is Justified or Justification. This is the word we want to look at in this study.

- It deals with the questions,

- “How can I, a sinner, be accepted by a holy and righteous God or judge?” - “How can I be right with God?

Read Romans 3:20-26

-Justification is a judicial term meaning to clear from any charge. To declare a person innocent of whatever charges were brought against him.

- It means at its core “to declare righteous”

- It **does not** mean to make righteous.

-Justification is God’s instantaneous legal act in which He forgives all our sin and gives us Jesus’ righteousness which allows us to be declared righteous in God’s sight.

Take it to the Next Level

First we learn that...

1. We Need to be Justified

A. We are all guilty.

-Romans 3:9-19

-We are all guilty of breaking God's law.

-We deserve the punishment or the consequences due for breaking the law.

-Separation from God, eternal punishment in Hell.

-Loss of identity, purpose, and value.

B. We all need to be forgiven.

-God offers "all" forgiveness for "all" their sins. (22-23)

-There is no one too bad, No one not worthy enough,

-Unless you want the consequences for breaking God's law, you need to be forgiven.

We learn that we need to be justified. But how? How are we justified? ...

2. We are Justified by Faith not by Works

A. We are not justified by doing works. (20)

-Paul is very clear and to the point that there is absolutely no work, no good deed, no good action, nothing we can do to earn justification.

-*Why do we have a tendency towards doing works to earn favor or forgiveness with God?* (Good outweighs the bad)

-Feel nothing can be free, we should have to **do** something, pride,

-Works can never justify us because good deeds do not meet God's standard. They are opposite of what is required.

-**When you get in trouble you try to run around and do a lot of good. Try to cover up the wrong**

that you did with the good. While it is a good attempt, it does not deal with the actual wrong you did.

-What is the purpose of the law in verse 20?

- So, the law was never meant to be kept, it was never given as a means to save us.
- It was given to reveal God's standard and reveal our sin. **It measures our distance from God.**

B. We are justified only by faith (24, 28)

- We are justified freely by grace.
 - Grace is the free gift of God given out of love.
 - We are justified purely out of God's love for us.
- We are justified by faith.
 - Justification is given by God to men through Jesus Christ by the **instrument or channel** of faith. Nothing else!
 - Justification comes after our faith and in response to our faith. The moment of salvation.
- Example of Abraham (4:1-5)
- Vs. 28- The conclusion
 - We are justified by faith without the law.
 - Galatians 2:16, *"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."*

What happens after we believe on Jesus Christ? What happens when we call on Jesus Christ to save us? ...

3. We are Just in God's Sight

-There are two things that occur in/ two parts to Justification.

-God not only takes away a negative but also adds a positive.

1. Forgiveness of our sin (Takes away the negative)

-When God justifies us we are acquitted or declared not guilty in advance of the final judgment in Rev. 20:15

-God declares us innocent of all charges of breaking His law. When someone is found "not guilty" in court all the charges are wiped from their record.

-We have no penalty to pay for sin both past, present, or future. We are released from the liability of our sin.

-The eternal consequences of sin are cancelled but there are still temporal consequences of sin on earth.

-For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. Jn. 3:17-18

2. The imputing of Jesus righteousness to us. (Adds a positive)

-We are restored into a position of favor and acceptance with God.

-2 Cor. 5:21, *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."*

-Imputed means “to credit something to another’s account.”

-When a person calls on Jesus to save them, he or she is placed in Christ. This is what makes him or her righteous. It is Jesus’ righteousness that meets God’s demands.

-Justification is declaring a person is righteous, not making or altering the person’s moral or spiritual condition.

-We stand before God as innocent or righteous. This does not mean we actually are at this moment. We will be, in Heaven.

-This standing allows us to come back to God, have a relationship with Him,

-Vs. 26- *How can God be Just and Justify guilty sinners?*

-The death of Jesus allows God to remain just in forgiving guilty sinners. Jesus’ sinless life and sacrifice, giving his life on the cross satisfied God’s law.

5:9 - We are justified by the blood of Jesus.

-*Why is blood needed?*

-Hebrews 9:22 - *“Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins.”*

-Forgiveness requires that an innocent life had to be given in exchange for the guilty person.

-Adam & Eve had to be covered by animal skins which required blood.

Taking your next step

1. Have you been justified? Have you called on Jesus Christ to save you?
2. Stop living a defeated life. Stop trying to earn favor with God by your actions.

-Live like the person God sees you as. Live life in the victory over sin.

3. You cannot lose your salvation. It is 100% secure.

-God has already forgiven all of your sins both past, present, and future. Therefore, there is nothing that you can do today or tomorrow to lose your salvation.

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