

Justification

I. The Meaning of Justification

Justification is the act of God whereby a saved person is declared to be cleared of all blame, to be freed from every charge.

Justification does not declare the sinner 'not guilty,' but "**as-not-guilty**". The act does not make one righteous, but declares one to be righteous in God's sight.

Justified = "Just - if - I'd never sinned"

Such an act of God is contrary to human thought. In a court of law, man will justify the innocent only on the ground of merit — but God justifies the guilty on the ground of mercy.

Justification is a judicial, or legal term, and has to do with the Christian's standing before God, rather than his state. Where man cannot both forgive and justify, God can, because on the cross His Son not only bore the punishment for our sins, but also the judgment for our sins.

The believer is never again judged for his sins. His sins were judged in the Savior on the cross — his sins (past, present, and future) were imputed to the Savior, and Christ is accounted to the believer as Righteousness.

II Corinthians 5:21

Justification is a "once-only" act. We are justified in the sight of God forever. The believer may need to be forgiven as a child of the Father, but he can never again be arraigned as a criminal before the Judge.

Justification is the act of a Judge.
Forgiveness is the act of the Parent.

II. The Method of Justification

In order to be justified before God, we must come on His terms.

A. Justification is not by Works.

We stand before God already proven guilty, and no man can justify himself — no man is able to give a satisfactory reason why he should be allowed eternal life — Romans 3:20.

B. Justification is through the merits of Jesus Christ.

We can only stand as just before God on the merits of Jesus Christ — Romans 3:25-26

It is his death and resurrection which are the grounds of our justification — Acts 13:38-39; Romans 4:25; 5:9

C. Justification is by Grace.

Romans 3:24

The grace of God provides justification to man through Christ.

D. Justification is through Faith.

We must come by faith to be saved. Faith is the acceptance of God's method of justification, and our acting upon it. Faith appropriates what grace provides.

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Romans 1:17; 3:28; 4:5; 5:1

III. The Results of Justification

- A. Peace with God. — Romans 5:1, 10
- B. No more Condemnation. — Romans 8:1
- C. No more Incrimination. — Romans 8:33-34
- D. Remission of Sins. — Acts 13:38-39 (This includes the removal of its guilt and penalty.)
- E. A Reckoned Righteousness.
II Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 3:9; James 2:23

When God looks at the believer, He only sees Christ — thus the believer is absolutely righteous in God 's judicial sight.

- F. An Assurance of Glorification. — Romans 5:2; 8:30
- G. Eternal Life. — Titus 3:7
- H. Good Works. — James 2:14, 24