

Sunday, October 3, 2021

The Verdict is In



Romans 5:16-21

Switch illustration

3 Tenses of salvation

Past- Justification- delivered from the penalty of sin

Presence- Sanctification- being saved from the power of sin

Future- Glorification- will be saved from the presence of sin

Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. ¹⁰ For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. ¹¹ And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.....

And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. ¹⁷ For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) ¹⁸ Therefore, as through man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. ¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. ²⁰ Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, ²¹ so

that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

III.- Imagine waiting for the verdict when you know you are guilty!

Properly understood, justification has to do with God's declaration *about* the sinner, not any change *within* the sinner. That is, justification, per se, does not make anyone holy; it simply *declares* him to be not guilty before God and therefore treated as holy. The actual change toward holiness in the sinner occurs with [sanctification](#), which is related to justification but, for definition's sake, [distinct from it](#).

A key passage describing justification in relation to believers is [Romans 3:21–26](#):

“But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

Titus 3:4-8- 4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. 8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

✦ The Meaning of Justification

δικαίωμα **dikaíōma**, dik-ah'-yo-mah; an equitable deed; by implication, a statute or decision:—judgment, justification, ordinance, righteousness.

Simply put, to justify is to declare righteous. Justification is an act of God whereby He pronounces a sinner to be righteous because of that sinner's faith in

Christ. According to one theologian, “the root idea in justification is the declaration of God, the righteous judge, that the man who believes in Christ, sinful though he may be, is righteous—is viewed as being righteous, because in Christ he has come into a righteous relationship with God” (Ladd, G. E., *A Theology of the New Testament*, Eerdmans, 1974, p. 437).

What exactly does it mean to be justified? Webster’s Dictionary defines justification as being pronounced free from blame or guilt. Vine’s Expository Dictionary says that being justified is the legal and formal acquittal from guilt by God as Judge. In his book *Systematic Theology*, Wayne Grudem defines justification as an instantaneous legal act of God in which he thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ’s righteousness as belonging to us. In this legal act God declares us to be righteous in His sight. The justification Christ offers frees one from the penalty of sin, and will keep one free from that penalty.

Someone once said that justification means, “Just as if I’d never sinned.”

My standing with God is dependent on what I receive, not what I achieve

James Kennedy, "Justification does not change our hearts, our souls, our lives one whit! It is something which is external to us. It is declared about us by God. It is God acting, not as a doctor or surgeon coming to change our hearts. Indeed God does change us, but that is regeneration and sanctification. Justification is a declaration about us, the declarative act of a Judge about a sinner." Rom. 4:17-22

✦ **The Method of Justification**

- Justification comes apart from the law; that is, we cannot earn justification through rule-keeping or our own good works.

Galatians 3:8, 11- And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed; ... But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

Galatians 3:24- Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

- Justification is based on the shed [blood of Christ](#).
- Justification is the free and gracious gift of God bestowed on those who receive by faith the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- Justification demonstrates the righteousness of God.

We are justified, declared righteous, at the moment of our salvation. Jesus Christ finished the work required for our justification on the cross. “Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!” ([Romans 5:9](#)). He was then “raised to life for our justification” ([Romans 4:25](#)).

Justification does not excuse our sin, ignore our sin, or endorse our sin. Rather, our sin is fully punished, Christ having taken our penalty for us. He was our substitute ([1 Peter 3:18](#)). Because the wrath of God is satisfied in Christ ([Isaiah 53:4–6](#)), we are free from condemnation ([Romans 8:1](#)), and God remains both “fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus” ([Romans 3:26](#)).

✦ The Merits of Justification

Related to God’s justification of the sinner are several things:

- 1) The remission of the penalty of sin, which was death ([Romans 3:23](#); [1 Peter 2:24](#)).
- 2) The restoration to God’s favor, which had been lost due to our sin ([John 3:36](#)). So, justification is more than an acquittal; it is full acceptance. We are now friends of God ([James 2:23](#)) and co-heirs with Christ ([Romans 8:17](#)).
- 3) The imputation of righteousness, which is the reckoning of Christ’s righteousness to our account ([Romans 4:5–8](#)). We are declared to be righteous *forensically* (legally) because “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)).

(The preceding three points are adapted from Henry Thiessen's *Lectures in Systematic Theology*, revised by Vernon Doerksen, Eerdmans, 1979, pp. 275–277).

Because God justifies us [by grace](#) through faith in Christ, we now have peace with God ([Romans 5:1](#)).

Joshua the priest, we have been stripped of our “filthy clothes” ([Zechariah 3:4](#))

like the [prodigal son](#) in the parable, we are now clothed with “the best robe” ([Luke 15:22](#)).

God the Father sees us as perfect and unblemished, and we are to be devoted “to doing what is good” ([Titus 3:14](#)).

Rev 19:8- And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness **G1345** of saints.

Rev 19:8

Romans 6:7; **Romans 8:1**

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:11- And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Spiritual warfare big time

[Romans 5:18–19](#) in the Amplified Bible sums up the basis and result of justification: “So then as through one trespass [Adam’s sin] there resulted condemnation for all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. For just as through one man’s disobedience [his failure to hear, his carelessness] the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of the one Man the many will be made righteous and acceptable to God and brought into right standing with Him.”

Romans 8:30- Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Rom 8:33- Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

Justified by faith speaks of a *legal decree*. [Romans 1:18-3:20](#) found us guilty before the court of God's law, God's glory, and our conscience. Then Paul explained how because of what Jesus did, the righteousness of God is given to all who believe. The guilty sentence is transformed into a sentence of **justified**, and **justified by faith**.

Justified freely by His grace: Being in such a sinful state, the only way we can be **justified** is to be **justified freely**. We can't purchase it with our good works at all. If it isn't made free to us, we can't have it all. So we are **justified freely by His grace** – His unmerited favor, given to us without regard to what we deserve. It is a giving motivated purely by the giver, and motivated by nothing in the one who receives.

WOW!!! What impact does this have on me on a daily basis?

- √ **I will walk in the assurance of my standing in Christ.**
- √ **I will win the battle with the enemy over his accusations.**

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. ¹² Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

- √ **I will always live a thankful and blessed life because of my standing in Christ.**

Justified freely! Hallelujah!

III.- Imagine waiting for the verdict when you know you are guilty!

Imagine that the charge has been laid against you. You are a sinner and deserve death. The various indictments are carefully laid out. You are given the opportunity to defend yourself, but there is nothing to say. You are guilty. Your adversary satan grows excited knowing that you are guilty, but before the Judge passes sentence, an Advocate comes forward and tells the Judge that He has enough righteousness to take care of your crime.