

**I. ESSENTIALS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH & LIFE** (chapter titles of *Westminster Confession*; see *Catechisms*; audio and outlines of sermons on *reformedvoice.org*)

**II. GENERAL IDEA OF JUSTIFICATION**

**A. MEANING: LEGAL STATEMENT** (*declaration* of a verdict; Rom.2:13)

**B. ILLUSTRATION: BANK STATEMENT** (*declaration* of an account; see Rom.4:3f)

**III. THE PROBLEM: NO ONE IS JUST** (Rom.3:23; see 1:1-3:20)

**A. GOD IS AND REQUIRES PERFECTION** (Is.6:1f; see Ps.5:4; Heb.12:23)

**B. ALL ARE SINNERS BY FALLEN NATURE** (Rom.5:12f)

**C. ALL DO SOMETHING WRONG** (Jms.2:10,11; see Jn.8:7)

**D. ALL FAIL TO DO EVERYTHING RIGHT** (Ex.20:17f; Mt.5:18f; see Jn.8:29)

**E. CONCLUSION: NO ONE CAN BE JUSTIFIED BY HIS OWN WORKS** (Rom.3:20; see Eph.2:1f)

**IV. THE SOLUTION: ONLY ONE IS JUST** (Rom.5:18f; Phil.2:8; Heb.7:26 /Mt.3:15; 5:17f; Acts 3:14)

**A. GOD REQUIRES AND ACCOMPLISHES PERFECTION** (Rom.3:21f)

**B. ONE IS INNOCENT BY INCARNATION** (Rom.8:3; see Lk.1:35; Rom.5:12f)

**C. ONE DID NOTHING WRONG** (Heb.4:15; 7:26)

**D. ONE DID EVERYTHING RIGHT** (Heb.5:8; Phil.2:8; see Jn.8:29)

**E. CONCLUSION: ONLY CHRIST IS JUSTIFIED BY HIS OWN WORKS** (1Tm.3:16; Phil.2:9f)

**V. THE GOSPEL: THE GIFT OF JUSTIFICATION IN CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS**

(Rom.3:24; 5:15f; Gal.5:4; Tt.3:7)

**A. GOD ACCOMPLISHES AND APPLIES PERFECTION** (Rom.3:26)

**B. GOD GIVES CREDIT FOR CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS** (Rom.4:3f; see 5:1f,15f,21)

**C. GOD GIVES CREDIT AGAINST OUR SINS** (Rom.4:6-8; 2Cor.5:21 /Lev.16:21f w/Heb.9:1ff /sacraments)

**D. GOD GIVES ABILITY TO RECEIVE THIS GIFT** (Rom.3:22f; 4:3f,16; 5:1f,17; Eph.2:8)

**E. CONCLUSION: BY GRACE ALONE, THROUGH FAITH ALONE, IN CHRIST ALONE!** (Eph.2:8f)

**VI. SATAN'S SCHEMES TO DISHONOR CHRIST AND DEFRAUD YOU**

**A. NO PROBLEM: NO LAW, NO SIN** (lawlessness; see Gen.3:1f)

**B. WRONG SOLUTION: MY OWN SUFFERING; MY OWN OBEDIENCE** (Rom10:3 /Judaism, Islam, etc)

**C. WRONG CONCLUSION: FREE TO SIN** (Rom.6:1f; see Gal.5:13f; Eph.2:1-10; Jms.2:14f(18); Tt.3:5f,8,14)

**D. SPLIT DECISION: FORGIVENESS BY GRACE, RIGHTEOUSNESS BY WORKS** (Gal.3:3f; see Rom.4:6f; 2Cor.5:21)

**VII. BLESSINGS FROM JUSTIFICATION**

**A. PEACE WITH GOD** (Rom.5:1f; see Eph.2:3f)

**B. CONFIDENT EXPECTATION OF GLORY** (Rom.5:2,9f; see 8:30,18f)

**C. COMFORT IN TRIALS** (Rom.5:3f; see 8:18f,31f)

**D. DEATH TO YOUR SINS** (Rom.6:2f; 1Pt.2:24; see Col. in D. below)

**E. LIFE IN CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS** (Rom.6:4f; 1Pt.2:24; Col.1:13; 2:12; 2:20f&3:1f; 3:9,10; 3:5f,12f)

**F. HUMILITY & THANKSGIVING IN GRACE** (Rom.3:27f; see 1Cor.1:4; 4:7; 2Cor.4:15)

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**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP**

*Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest **interest** to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be **useful**, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.*

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What Scripture references were most helpful and why?
4. What are the primary *doctrinal* points of this passage? Do you *believe* these things?
5. What are the primary *practical* points? Do you do *these* things?
6. What is the general idea of justification? What is the difference between a bank statement and a bank deposit? How does this illustrate the general idea of justification? (see Rom.3,4)
7. What is the problem?
  - a. Is salvation a matter of your good works outweighing your bad works? Why or why not?
  - b. Why is this situation so impossible?!
  - c. What is the conclusion? Are you persuaded that this is true? Why or why not?
8. What is the solution?
  - a. How did Jesus accomplish perfect righteousness?
  - b. What is the evidence that Jesus was justified by His own works?
9. How does this solution apply to us as sinners?
  - a. For what *reason* does God apply this to us?
  - b. By what *means* does God apply this to us? Where does this come from?
  - c. What are the two ways that God applies the solution to us? How is this signified in baptism? Lord's Supper?
  - d. How can the Gospel be summarized?
10. What are some ways Satan tries to corrupt this pure Gospel? Which of these are you most susceptible to?
11. What are some of the blessings of justification? Which of these were you particularly impressed at this time? Which of these are especially precious to you?

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**FURTHER:** Discuss the *Larger Catechism* (incl. references) & consider memorizing *Shorter Catechism* on "Justification".

**Larger Catechism - Q. 70. *What is justification?***

A. Justification is an act of God's free grace unto sinners, in which he pardoneth all their sins, accepteth and accounteth their persons righteous in his sight; not for any thing wrought in them, or done by them, but only for the perfect obedience and full satisfaction of Christ, by God imputed to them, and received by faith alone. Rom. 3:22, 24-25; Rom. 4:5; 2 Cor. 5:19, 21; Rom. 3:22, 24-25, 27-28; Titus 3: 5, 7; Eph. 1:7; Rom. 5:17-19; Rom. 4:6-8; Acts 10:43; Gal. 2:16; Phil. 3:9.

**Shorter Catechism - Q. 33. *What is justification?***

A. Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins, and accepteth us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone. Rom. 3:24-25; Rom. 4:6-8; 2 Cor. 5:19, 21; Rom. 5:17-19; Gal. 2:16; Phil. 3:9.

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