

Justification
Romans 5:1-12

Main Point:

By grace through faith, you are righteous in God's sight; therefore, rest in the work of Jesus Christ on your behalf.

1. Justification is a one-time, legal act of God.
2. Jesus Christ fully satisfied God's justice so that sinners, like you, can be forgiven.
3. Jesus Christ also perfectly obeyed God's law on behalf of His people.
4. By grace through faith, the righteousness of Jesus Christ is imputed to you.
5. Rest in the work of Jesus Christ on your behalf.

Recommended Resources on Justification:

WCF 10; *WLC* 70-73, 77; *WSC* 32-33, 36

Systematic Theology by Louis Berkhof (pp. 510-526)

What is Justification by Faith? by J.V. Fesko

Faith Alone by R.C. Sproul

The Great Exchange: My Sin for His Righteousness by Jerry Bridges & Bob Bevington

Justification by James Bannerman

By Faith Alone: Answering the Challenges to the Doctrine of Justification ed. by Gary L.W. Johnson & Guy P. Waters

Cross References & Quotes:

Deuteronomy 25:1 If there is a dispute between men, and they come to court, that *the judges* may judge them, and they justify the righteous and condemn the wicked. (NKJV)

Wayne Spear “When a judge condemns a lawbreaker, he does not change the moral character of that person, but declares how the person stands in relation to the law and its penalties. Likewise, justifying a person produces no moral change; it is a pronouncement about his standing before the law.”

Romans 8:1, *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus ... (NKJV)

Romans 5:12 ¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned. (NKJV)

Galatians 3:10 ¹⁰ ... "Cursed *is* everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." (NKJV)

WSC 33 What is justification? A. Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

Romans 5:6-8 ⁶ For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (NKJV)

2 Cor. 5:21 ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (NKJV)

WCF 11.3 Christ, by His obedience and death, did fully discharge the debt of all those that are thus justified, and did make a proper, real, and full satisfaction to His Father's justice in their behalf ...

Ephesians 1:7 ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace. (NKJV)

WLC 93 What is the moral law? A. The moral law is the declaration of the will of God to mankind, directing and binding everyone to personal, perfect, and perpetual conformity and obedience thereunto, in the frame and disposition of the whole man, soul and body, and in performance of all those duties of holiness and righteousness which he owes to God and man: promising life upon the fulfilling, and threatening death upon the breach of it.

Wayne Spear “By His life Christ fulfilled the requirement of the Covenant of Works, [which is] ‘personal, perfect and perpetual obedience,’ and thus gained for those whom He represented the life promised in the covenant.”

Testimony Introduction “In the fullness of time God brought forth His Son, born of a virgin, of the seed of David. He obeyed the Covenant of Life [Works] on behalf of His people ...”

Romans 5:19 ¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience [the 1st Adam] many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience [the 2nd Adam] many will be made righteous. (NKJV)

Philippians 3:8-9 ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith. (NKJV)

Galatians 2:16 ... for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. (NKJV)

Romans 5:1-11 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God ... ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. (NKJV)