

10. JUSTIFICATION (PART TWO)

GALATIANS 3:1-14

1. CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS IS IMPUTED TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE

(a) Justification is by faith alone – it is not by works

Galatians 2:15-16, 3:8-9, 5:4-5

Philippians 3:8-9

Romans 1:17, 3:22-30, 4:3-5, 4:16, 4:23-24

(b) Why it has to be by faith alone

The five “solas” of the Reformation:

- Scripture alone
- Faith alone
- Grace alone
- Christ alone
- To the glory of God alone

2. JUSTIFICATION AND ROMAN CATHOLIC DOCTRINE

(a) Does this really matter?

(b) Justification is NOT something that God does IN us

“Regeneration is an act of God in us; justification is a judgment of God with respect to us. The distinction is like that of the distinction between the act of a surgeon and the act of a judge. The surgeon, when he removes an inward cancer, does something in us. That is not what a judge does – he gives a verdict regarding our judicial status. If we are innocent he declares accordingly.”
John Murray, Redemption accomplished and applied, p121

Regeneration	Saving righteousness	Personal righteousness / Growing holiness / Progressive sanctification
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• By God’s grace• In us	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• By God’s grace• NOT in us	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• By God’s grace• In us

(c) Roman Catholicism confuses justification and regeneration

- **Justification at the Council of Trent (1545-1547)**

Christ obeys →	We are given Christ’s righteousness at Baptism – BUT this does <u>not</u> justify →	Because of Christ’s work we receive the Spirit →	By the Spirit we do good works – & THESE WORKS JUSTIFY US
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- justification goes up and down
- assurance is impossible (and is condemned)
- the Church and the human Priest are exalted as channels of grace
- salvation is by works: Christ earns us grace so that we can produce good works and work our way to heaven
- infused righteousness, not imputed righteousness
- justifying righteousness is not in Christ but in us

“If justification is confused with regeneration or sanctification, then the door is opened for the perversion of the gospel at its centre. Justification is still the article of the standing or falling Church” *John Murray, Redemption Accomplished and Applied, p121*

3. WHERE DO OUR GOOD WORKS FIT IN?

- (a) We are not saved BY good works. But we are not saved WITHOUT good works**

James 2:14-26

- (b) Good works do not justify us. Good works are EVIDENCE of justification**

Matthew 7:15-23

4. SUMMARY

- (a) From the 39 Articles of Religion**

Article 11 The justification of man (modernised English)

We are accounted righteous before God solely on account of the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ through faith and not on account of our own good works or of what we deserve. Consequently the teaching that we are justified by faith alone is a most wholesome and comforting doctrine. This is taught more fully in the homily on Justification.

Article 12 Good works (modernised English)

Although good works, which are the fruits of faith and follow on after justification, can never atone for our sins or face the strict justice of God's judgment, they are nevertheless pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ and necessarily spring from a true and living faith. Thus a living faith is as plainly known by its good works as a tree is known by its fruit.

- (b) From the Westminster Confession of Faith – Chapter XI – Of Justification**

1. Those whom God effectually calleth, he also freely justifieth: not by infusing righteousness into them, but by pardoning their sins, and by accounting and accepting their persons as righteous; not for anything wrought in them, or done by them, but for Christ's sake alone; nor by imputing faith itself, the act of believing, or any other evangelical obedience to them, as their righteousness; but by imputing the obedience and satisfaction of Christ unto them, they receiving and resting on him and his righteousness, by faith; which faith they have not of themselves, it is the gift of God.

2. Faith, thus receiving and resting on Christ and his righteousness, is the alone instrument of justification: yet is it not alone in the person justified, but is ever accompanied with all other saving graces, and is no dead faith, but worketh by love.

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. Yet, inasmuch as he was given by the Father for them; and his obedience and satisfaction accepted in their stead; and both, freely, not for anything in them; their justification is only of free grace; that both the exact justice and rich grace of God might be glorified in the justification of sinners.

4. God did, from all eternity, decree to justify all the elect, and Christ did, in the fullness of time, die for their sins, and rise again for their justification: nevertheless, they are not justified, until the Holy Spirit doth, in due time, actually apply Christ unto them.

5. God doth continue to forgive the sins of those that are justified; and, although they can never fall from the state of justification, yet they may, by their sins, fall under God's fatherly displeasure, and not have the light of his countenance restored unto them, until they humble themselves, confess their sins, beg pardon, and renew their faith and repentance.

6. The justification of believers under the old testament was, in all these respects, one and the same with the justification of believers under the new testament.

5. APPLICATIONS: HUMILITY AND CONFIDENCE

Isaiah 45:24-25, 54:17, 61:10

Zechariah 3:1-5

Romans 8:33

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,

Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure;
Save from wrath and make me pure.

2. Not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

3. Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to the cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

4. While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

Augustus Toplady