

JUSTIFICATION 4 – APPLYING THE DOCTRINE

DISCUSS WHILE WAITING TO BEGIN...

1. What are the three biggest problems in your life right now? How are you trying to respond to them?
2. Is the Cross of Christ relevant to those problems? Why? Why not?

1. THE DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION

2 Corinthians 5:21

“Further, as long as Christ is outside of us and we are out of Christ, we can receive no fruit from another’s righteousness. God willed to unite us to Christ by a twofold bond – one natural, the other mystical – in virtue of which both our evils might be transferred to Christ and the blessings of Christ pass over to and become ours. The former is the communion of nature by the incarnation. By this, Christ, having assumed our flesh, became our brother and true Goel and could receive our sins upon himself and have the right to redeem us. The latter is the communion of grace by mediation. By this, having been made by God a surety for us and given to us for a head, he can communicate to us his righteousness and all his benefits. Hence it happens that as he was made of God sin for us by the imputation of our sins, so in turn we are made the righteousness of God in him by the imputation of his obedience (2 Cor 5:21).”

Francis Turretin, *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*, vol. 2, p647

2. WHAT DOESN'T JUSTIFICATION CHANGE ABOUT ME?

Romans 7 – You are worse than you think you are!

Original sin is not found merely in the following of Adam's example (as the Pelagians foolishly say). It is rather to be seen in the fault and corruption which is found in the nature of every person who is naturally descended from Adam. The consequence of this is that man is far gone from his original state of righteousness. In his own nature he is predisposed to evil, the sinful nature in man always desiring to behave in a manner contrary to the Spirit. In every person born into this world there is found this predisposition which rightly deserves God's anger and condemnation. This infection within man's nature persists even within those who are regenerate. This desire of the sinful nature, which in Greek is called *phronema sarkos* and is variously translated the wisdom or sensuality or affection or desire of the sinful nature, is not under the control of God's law. Although there is no condemnation for those that believe and are baptized, nevertheless the apostle states that any such desire is sinful.

“Original or Birth-sin” - Article IX, 39 Articles of religion (modernised English)

Remember: Justification and progressive sanctification are different

3. WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES JUSTIFICATION MAKE TO OUR LIVES?

The answer to:

Legalism...
Condemnation...
Experientialism

Romans 3:20-26, 5:1, 8:1

Justified and therefore adopted

“At the same time righteous and a sinner; always righteous and a sinner”

“But how does this make any difference in practice?”

Consider the most important human relationship in your life.
How does Jesus’ work on the Cross make a daily difference?

4. LIVING A CROSS-CENTRED DAY...

Memorise the gospel
Pray the gospel
Sing the gospel
Review how the gospel has changed you
Study the gospel

NEXT SUNDAY AT 9.30AM: QUESTION TIME

Questions to Andrew! – andrew.grey@immanuelbrentwood.org

RECOMMENDED READING:

C.J. Mahaney, *Living the Cross Centred Life*