

## Doctrine of Justification

1. Justification refers to the act of being declared righteous in the sight of God.
2. The question of how a person can be righteous in the sight of God is one of the most important issues that any person will ever address.
  - *Job 25:4 How then can man be justified with God? Or how can he be clean that is born of a woman?*
3. There are three main propositions as to how a person can be righteous before God.
  - Justification by works.
  - Justification by faith.
  - Justification by synergism, a combination of works and faith.
4. During the days of Christ and the apostles, the concept of justification by works was at the center of the theological debate. The Jews contended that by keeping the Law, individuals would be declared righteous before God.
5. For this reason the Pharisees determined to be the best of all law keepers. They would separate themselves from others and endeavor to obey the 618 provisions of the Mosaic Law.
6. No one was more zealous in this endeavor than Saul of Tarsus.
  - *Philippians 3:4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: 5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*
7. The Law always required perfect obedience.
  - *Leviticus 18:5 Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the Lord.*
  - *Romans 10:5 For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.*
  - *Romans 2:13 (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.*
  - *James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*

8. The main problem with advocating a system of works righteousness is that no one can keep to law. The flesh is too weak, and the honest heart will condemn itself.
- *Job 9:20 If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me: if I say, I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse.*
  - *Psalms 130:3 If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?*
  - *Psalms 143:2 And enter not into judgment with thy servant: for in thy sight shall no man living be justified.*
  - *Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*
  - *Romans 9:31 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. 32 Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;*
  - *Romans 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*
9. Justification by synergism, a mixture of faith and works, is also theologically unacceptable, according to divine revelation, for faith and works cannot be mixed as the ground or root of righteousness.
- *Romans 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.*
  - *Romans 11:6 And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.*
  - *Galatians 2:14 But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews? 15 We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, 16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. 17 But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. 18 For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. 19 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. 20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. 21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*

- *Galatians 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.*

10. Justification before God is promised only in Christ.

- *Isaiah 45:25 In the Lord shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.*
- *Isaiah 53:11 He [the Messiah] shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.*

11. Justification is the act of God. No human can declare self to be righteous before God, though many try to do this. The Muslims engage in Jihad, and justify murder. The Mormons are promiscuous, and declare themselves holy. The Nazis advance a political ideology leading to the annihilation of six million Jews, and declare they are righteously upholding the Creator's law of natural selection. Only God can justify.

- God justified Isaiah. *Isaiah 50:8 He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? Let us stand together: who is mine adversary? Let him come near to me.*
- God justifies the elect. *Romans 8:33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*

12. Justification according to gospel terms is far superior to a works based righteousness, or a false ideology and hope of combining works with grace. Justification is by grace alone through faith alone.

By grace alone.

- *Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:*
- *Romans 4:16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,*
- *Romans 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) 18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. 20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: 21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*

By faith alone.

- *John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*
- *Acts 13:39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the Law of Moses.*
- *Romans 3:30 Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.*
- *Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*
- *Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*

13. Justification is provided in the name of Christ.

- *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.*

14. Justification is by the imputation of Christ's righteousness.

- *Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.*
- *Jeremiah 23:6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE Lord OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.*
- *Romans 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:*
- *Romans 5:18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.*
- *1 Corinthians 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:*

- *2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

15. Justification is by the blood of Christ.

- *Romans 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*
- *Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

16. The redemptive work of Christ at Calvary, and the resurrection from the dead, provides the freedom for God to justify individuals.

- *Romans 4:25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*
- *1 Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.*

17. There is a blessing in justification.

- *Psalms 32:1 Psalm of David, Mas'-chil. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.*
- *Romans 4:6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness [good fortune] of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, 7 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. 8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.*

18. There is freedom from condemnation in justification.

- *Isaiah 50:8 He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? Let us stand together: who is mine adversary? Let him come near to me. 9 Behold, the Lord God will help me; who is he that shall condemn me? Lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up.*
- *Isaiah 54:17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.*
- *Romans 8:33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

19. Justification entitles the believer to an inheritance.

- *Titus 3:7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

20. Justification ensures glorification.

- *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.*

21. The wicked and the unbelieving shall not be justified before God.

- *Exodus 23:7 Keep thee far from a false matter; and the innocent and righteous slay thou not: for I will not justify the wicked.*

22. The doctrine of justification by faith alone is both an Old Testament truth as well as a New Testament revelation. Since the Fall of man, God has always had only one plan of salvation.

- *Habakkuk 2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.*
- *Romans 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*

23. Justification by faith alone excludes boasting.

- *Romans 3:27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.*
- *Romans 4:2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.*
- *1 Corinthians 1:29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.*
- *1 Corinthians 1:31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.*

24. The Doctrine of Justification by grace alone through faith alone, does not nullify or make void the law. Rather, the law is established by it.

- *Romans 3:30 Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith. 31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.*

- *1 Corinthians 9:21 To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.*

25. In the Old Testament, the Doctrine of Justification is typified in the teachings of Zechariah and illustrated in the New Testament by Christ.

- *Zechariah 3:4 And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment. 5 And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the Lord stood by.*
- *Luke 18:9 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. 13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*

26. The Doctrine of Justification is exemplified in the Old Testament in the life of Abraham and by Paul in the New Testament.

- *Genesis 15:6 And he [Abraham] believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness.*
- *Philippians 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I [Paul] count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:*